United Nations A/61/215

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 August 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Item 88 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme carried out by the Department for Disarmament Affairs in the priority areas of weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons, in particular small arms and light weapons. The Programme will continue to publish print and electronic versions of *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, available on its website. The website (disarmament.un.org) has grown exponentially in content and is being used more and more by Member States, conference participants, non-governmental organizations and the general public alike to access daily updates of documents and statements, including United Nations webcasts. The Department will continue to facilitate the participation of civil society organizations in disarmament-related meetings and conferences and collaborate closely with coalitions of non-governmental organizations that spearhead such participation. The present report gives details of the many contributions of the Department of Public Information to the dissemination of information on disarmament.

* A/61/150 and Corr.1.

06-45346 (E) 240806

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Information resources	4
	A. Publication programme	4
	B. Website	6
	C. Exhibits	7
III.	Information activities	8
	A. Panel discussion	8
	B. Activities of the Secretary-General's Messenger of Peace	8
	C. Briefings	9
IV.	Cooperation with civil society, especially non-governmental organizations	9
V.	Activities of the Department of Public Information	10
	A. Public information campaigns	10
	B. Radio and television	10
	C. Internet	11
	D. Printed materials	12
	E. Civil society and non-governmental organizations	13
	F. Public affairs	13
	G. United Nations information centres, services and offices	14
VI.	Conclusions	14
Annex		
	Status of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme	16

I. Introduction

1. In resolution 59/103, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-first session a report covering the implementation of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated for the following two years. The Programme is administered by the Department for Disarmament Affairs, in close collaboration with the Department of Public Information, in particular on information campaigns focused on major disarmament-related events and conferences.

2. The objectives of the Disarmament Information Programme reflect the overall orientation of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, guided by the priorities of Member States as enunciated in the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.

3. In the area of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, especially nuclear weapons, high priority was accorded to the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and its preparatory process, requiring a heightened level of preparedness and mobilization of resources, both by the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information. There was increased demand for information by the diplomatic community, other international and civil society organizations, the press and the public.

4. In the conventional weapons sphere, high priority was accorded to the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 26 June to 7 July 2006, its Preparatory Committee, which met in New York from 9 to 20 January 2006, and the second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms, held in New York from 11 to 15 July 2005. Again, in these cases, the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information were required to mobilize resources to meet the demand for information from various sectors.

5. The importance of the website of the Department for Disarmament Affairs continued to grow, as evidenced by the substantial amount of time spent by visitors on the site. Dedicated websites were designed for the major disarmament-related conferences mentioned in paragraph 4, which were commended by delegations for their practical utility.

6. In accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 59/93, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124) and to submit it to the Assembly at its sixty-first session. A separate report has been issued on this item (A/61/169).

7. In a series of resolutions adopted at its sixtieth session, the General Assembly reaffirmed the usefulness of the Department's three regional centres — in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean — in carrying out

dissemination and educational programmes. Separate reports to the General Assembly on the three regional centres provide further confirmation of their activities (A/61/137, A/61/163 and A/61/157).

8. The United Nations disarmament fellowship training and advisory services is the Department's largest annual training programme. A separate report on its activities has been submitted to the sixty-first session of the Assembly (A/61/130).

9. In accordance with the standing request of the General Assembly asking the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to report to the Assembly on the activities of the Institute on a yearly basis, accounts of the information and education activities of the Institute for the last two years are contained in separate reports transmitted by the Secretary-General for consideration by the Assembly (A/60/135 and A/61/180).

10. Funding for the Disarmament Information Programme continues to be derived from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary resources, in particular from the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Programme. The status as at 31 December 2005 is contained in the annex to the present report. The Trust Fund continued to benefit from the generosity of Member States and private donors. The Department for Disarmament Affairs is grateful for the donations and support it has received from States and private donors, as listed in the annex to this report.

II. Information resources

A. Publication programme

11. *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* remains the flagship publication of the Department for Disarmament Affairs. The English version of the Yearbook is issued in a print run of 2,950 copies and distributed worldwide to United Nations libraries, as well as to its depositary library system, United Nations information centres, to all permanent missions in New York and Geneva (in multiple copies), to the offices of the regional commissions and to parliamentary libraries. It is sold in United Nations bookshops to subscribers and non-subscribers, with approximately 500 copies sold of each edition over its lifetime. An additional copy is distributed to all delegations participating in the work of the First Committee and the Conference on Disarmament. In addition, it is distributed to approximately 600 research institutes, organizations and individuals, mainly in the developing world.

12. Following on the results of the 2002/2003 survey carried out by the Department for Disarmament Affairs in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, the Department for Disarmament Affairs inaugurated its first online version of the *Yearbook*, the 2004 edition, together with the 2002 and 2003 archival editions. The *e-Yearbook* is in html format and features full-text search, index search and navigation mechanisms and is easily accessible from the Department for Disarmament Affairs website.

13. The Programme continued to publish its dark-blue covered study series, in all six languages. The series, a non-sales publication, produced in small quantities in a serial format, highlights General Assembly studies undertaken by groups of governmental experts by packaging them in an attractive form for wider dissemination and future use. In 2005, study series 31 was released on the theme

06-45326

"The relationship between disarmament and development in the current international context". Plans have been made to publish the study on verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification, which will be presented to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

14. The occasional papers series was developed to give wider dissemination to the expert inputs from panels and seminars sponsored by the Department for Disarmament Affairs at Headquarters. The publication is produced in English only, disseminated free of charge and posted on the Department's website. The following three have been issued:

- *Occasional Paper*, No. 8, October 2004, "Disarmament and non-proliferation regimes", a contribution of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters to the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change
- *Occasional Paper*, No. 9, November 2004, "The relationship between disarmament and development", based on a panel discussion held during the first session of the group of experts on the subject in March 2004
- *Occasional Paper*, No. 10, March 2006, "Verifying non-proliferation and disarmament agreements today", based on a panel discussion organized by the Department in October 2005

15. In 2004, the Department for Disarmament Affairs discontinued its printed version of the update. In 2005, it produced one version (February issue) of the update in electronic format, but owing to lack of resources did not produce any more that year. In 2006, the Programme revamped its format, creating a new electronic-only format entitled "Disarmament update: news links". The one-page e-publication is aimed at the interested public and highlights recent events and activities of the Department, linking the reader to fuller stories already available on the Department's website. Four issues are planned each year.

16. In 2004, the Department for Disarmament Affairs published a booklet entitled "Reducing the threat of biological weapons", containing excerpts from the panel discussions held in New York in cooperation with the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security, between 2000 and 2003.

17. Following the successful conclusion in January 2005 of the small arms education project, organized by the Department for Disarmament Affairs in partnership with the Campaign for Global Peace Education of the Hague Appeal for Peace, the publication "*Peace and Disarmament Education: Changing Mindsets to Reduce Violence and Sustain the Removal of Small Arms*" was issued in 2005; it is available in print and electronic format and contains most notably reports from the four pilot education projects in Albania, Cambodia, Niger and Peru and an "organizers manual" to serve as a guide for the replication of projects in other locations.

18. To assist delegations in their analysis of the resolutions and decisions on disarmament adopted at the previous year's General Assembly, the Department for Disarmament Affairs publishes in print and electronic format, at the beginning of each year, in limited quantities, the final edited texts of the resolutions, including voting patterns and sponsors, as well as unedited texts of the decisions.

B. Website

19. The Department for Disarmament Affairs continued to maintain and improve both the substantive content and technical delivery of its website.

20. The overall design of the website remains oriented towards specific issues. The priorities of the Department determine its core content. Its front page provides the latest disarmament-related United Nations press releases, statements of the Secretary-General and other senior United Nations officials, information on current and upcoming events in the field of disarmament, relevant background documentation and links to significant United Nations partners. Its substantive pages give background information on the topic being explored and store a wealth of information on recent and past major disarmament-related conferences. Documentation relating to these conferences that exists in all official United Nations languages is posted on the website.

21. The Department for Disarmament Affairs designed a specialized website for the 2005 NPT Review Conference as a working tool for participants in the Conference. The web pages were cited for their usefulness by delegations and are referred to in the final report of the Conference.[7] A similar concept was used to build the website for the 2006 Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and its Preparatory Committee. Given the public interest, a new component was added to the website devoted to the Review Conference. It featured a public service announcement by Michael Douglas in his capacity as a United Nations Messenger of Peace (see para. 31 (c)), as well as frequently asked questions and a more direct response to open criticism of the Conference's objectives in the form of a "Setting the record straight". Other items of general public interest were also added. Thus the website served as a tool for participants in the Conference, for general informational purposes and to respond to misconceptions about the Conference's objectives.

22. Access to the Department for Disarmament Affairs *e-Yearbook* is controlled by the newly developed security system, which requires users to log in to the website, so as to allow the Department to more accurately report on public interest in the publication and to access the certain segments of the website. The new security system provides additional level of flexibility and control over access to various sections of the website. The Department conducted a feasibility study on the issue of electronic submission of reports by Member States to the Register of Conventional Arms and recommended that the new security system be used for the development of a custom web application to facilitate electronic submissions.

23. The Department is continuing to monitor the performance of its website. Statistics on the number of hits and visitors, their favourite pages and peak hours and the days or weeks the website is accessed are kept monthly. Regular monitoring has improved the Department's understanding of the kind of information that is being sought, and who is seeking it.

24. During the reporting period, in addition to the common website metrics, the Department for Disarmament Affairs has begun to monitor session time for visitors (total time spent on the website) and the cumulative session time of individual users. This new indicator revealed that, while the number of visitors had grown moderately during this period, the amount of time those visitors had spent visiting the website showed notable growth. Among the users that spent the most time visiting the

website are Government agencies (generally, ministries of foreign affairs), educational institutions and non-governmental organizations. The top 10 users, by time spent on the website, have clocked an average of about 30 hours per month accessing pages on the website.

25. Expanding the multilingual version of the Department for Disarmament Affairs website continues to prove to be a major challenge. It is only when documentation exists in all United Nations official languages that the Department is able to post it quickly and easily. With respect to the 2005 NPT Review Conference and the 2006 Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms, due to available funding, the Department for Disarmament Affairs maintained the English version of the websites, while the Department of Public Information created and maintained websites in the five other United Nations official languages.

C. Exhibits

26. Exhibits play an important role in promoting advocacy and providing information on a conference so as to give vibrancy to a parliamentary process, through the use of new formats and multimedia for the presentation of data and the promotion of governmental and non-governmental positions. Such exhibits have become an expected fixture of major United Nations conferences.

27. An exhibit sponsored by Hidankyo, a Japan-based non-governmental organization (NGO) composed of survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, was featured at the 2005 NPT Review Conference. Hidankyo highlighted the stories of the survivors, many of whom have endured severe illness throughout their lives and have found their numbers dwindling further with each passing year. Ageing survivors attended in great numbers and were featured speakers at side events. It was noted that, in light of their advanced years and health conditions, it was for many their last opportunity to stand present at an NPT Review Conference as testimony to the horror of the use of nuclear weapons.

28. In conjunction with the 2006 Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms, displays were mounted by the United States of America, the Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic Community of West African States, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Small Arms Survey, the Bonn International Centre for Conversion, the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), the Control Arms campaign, SaferAfrica, Saferworld and the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities.

29. In addition, the Department of Public Information mounted, in cooperation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs, an exhibit in the visitors' lobby, which included small replicas of the non-violence sculpture by Carl Frederik Reutersward, creator of the twisted gun on display at the visitors entrance; an *escopetarra* (from *escopeta* (rifle), and *guitarra* (guitar)) made from confiscated illicit rifles by César Lopez, a Colombian musician, who, with the support of IANSA, performed on the gun-guitar at the opening of the exhibit in New York; and sculptures from an exhibition presented by the 3-D design students in the

Advertising and Graphic Design Department of the New York School of Visual Arts, entitled "Disarm ... new year, new use", which displayed M-16 rifles transformed into everyday objects as a call for peace. In connection with the *escopetarra*, the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, which sponsored the conversion into guitars of 15 AK-47's used in Colombian violence, gave the United Nations one of the *escopetarras*, which will be on display in the disarmament section of the visitors guided tour route.

III. Information activities

A. Panel discussion

30. The Department for Disarmament Affairs held a panel discussion in November 2005 on the issue of verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations, as a contribution to the panel of experts to be established by the Secretary-General in 2006 on the issue. The presentations made by four well-known individuals in the field of verification were published in Department for Disarmament Affairs *Occasional Papers*, No. 10.

B. Activities of the Secretary-General's Messenger of Peace

31. Over the last two years, Michael Douglas, a Messenger of Peace since 30 July 1998, has continued to use his celebrity status to attract attention to the issue of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as the impact of illicit small arms proliferation. The Department of Public Information is the lead office for the activities of the Messengers of Peace and acts in cooperation with the substantive office (in this case the Department for Disarmament Affairs) for activities relating to disarmament issues. During the period under review, Mr. Douglas has made the following important contributions:

(a) In 2005, the United Nations Postal Administration created a stamp devoted to the subject of children affected by armed conflict, entitled "Books, not guns". In connection with the release of the stamp, Mr. Douglas made a 30-second video that was shown by the United Nations at a first-day issue ceremony on 15 October 2004 as part of an annual philatelic mega-event in New York. The short video was also shown to the participants in the First Committee a week later.

(b) On 21 September 2005, Mr. Douglas participated, together with several other Messengers, in a full day of activities to commemorate the International Day of Peace. It included attending the annual Peace Bell ceremony with the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly; a student observance attended by more than 400 students and featuring, among others, a video conference from Israel and Palestine and Northern Ireland; meetings and briefings with senior Secretariat officials; and a press conference focused on aspects of the reform measures adopted by the 2005 World Summit.

(c) In May 2006, Mr. Douglas featured in a public service announcement, spotlighting the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and promoting the 2006 Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms. The public service announcement was translated into over a

dozen languages and sent around the globe through Department of Public Information networks. It was displayed on the website devoted to the 2006 Conference.

C. Briefings

32. At the request of the Public Inquiries Unit of the Department of Public Information, staff members of the Department for Disarmament Affairs undertook between 30 and 35 briefing engagements per year for the benefit of: (a) student visitors in the framework of university programmes dealing with the United Nations; (b) United Nations Associations members from various countries; (c) foreign ministry trainees; (d) students preparing for the model United Nations exercises; and (e) visiting members of NGOs.

33. Staff members of the Department for Disarmament Affairs also participated in numerous discussions as panellists and participants on arms control, disarmament and security issues organized by research or university-related institutes or think-tanks.

IV. Cooperation with civil society, especially non-governmental organizations

34. The Department for Disarmament Affairs maintained close contact for the purpose of coordinating participation in major conferences with two major NGO coalitions, Reaching Critical Will in the nuclear field, and IANSA in connection with small arms and light weapons. NGO access to meetings included addressing delegations in a dedicated open session of the following conferences: the 2005 NPT Review Conference; the 2005 Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms; the Preparatory Committee for the Conference to Review Progress made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms; and the Review Conference itself.

35. At the sixtieth session of the First Committee, two prominent educators from the NGO sector were invited, for the first time, at the initiative of the Chairman, to make presentations on nuclear and small arms education to the Committee during its interactive debate, held on 21 October 2005, on disarmament and non-proliferation education.[2]

36. The Department continued to cooperate with the NGO Committee on Disarmament and the Department of Public Information in facilitating panel discussions covering a range of topical issues in the fall of 2004 and 2005 during Disarmament Week. Similar programmes are planned for the next two years.

V. Activities of the Department of Public Information

A. Public information campaigns

37. The Department of Public Information has continued its efforts to help raise public awareness and understanding of the work of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and related issues. During the reporting period, the Department of Public Information focused on the promotion and coverage of major conferences in the area of nuclear weapons and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons; in the nuclear field, the 2005 NPT Review Conference and the 2005 Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty held on 22 and 23 September 2005; in the conventional field, the second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms as well as the 2006 Review Conference of the Programme of Action on Small Arms.

38. With respect to the latter, the Department of Public Information worked closely with the Department for Disarmament Affairs on the development and implementation of a comprehensive communications strategy. The strategy aimed at utilizing a full range of the information and communications tools available to the Department of Public Information in all official languages. This included issuing press releases and other media and promotional material for print media, radio and television; developing a multifaceted website; outreach; and special projects undertaken both at Headquarters and through the worldwide network of information centres to call attention to the dangers associated with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons; and to raise awareness among the world's public of the progress made by the Organization and its Member States in the implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms.

B. Radio and television

39. United Nations Television highlighted disarmament-related issues through its various products. During the reporting period, "World Chronicle", a television programme produced by the Department of Public Information in a talk show format, featured senior Government representatives from Member States and United Nations officials on such issues as nuclear non-proliferation, small arms and light weapons and mine action. UN in Action, a six-language television feature series, which is estimated to reach some 300 million viewers on a weekly basis, most recently produced, in close collaboration with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, a programme entitled "Brazil combats illegal arms trafficking" which was broadcast by CNN World Report in July 2006. The UN in Action series also continued to highlight disarmament and demobilization programmes in the context of United Nations peacekeeping, peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts, such as the 2005 story on small arms and light weapons called "Surviving rebel abduction in Uganda". UNIFEED, the daily satellite feed which reaches some 560 television stations around the world through the Associated Press Television News agency, produced and distributed various stories on such topics as the problem of small arms in the Great Lakes region in Africa, news on the 2006 Review Conference of the Programme of Action on Small

Arms and the disarmament related promotional work of the Messenger of Peace, Michael Douglas.

40. United Nations Radio produced a wealth of programmes on disarmament and related issues in the six official languages, as well as in Portuguese and Kiswahili. These daily live broadcasts and current affairs magazine programmes, which are aired around the world by United Nations Radio's broadcast partners, provided thorough coverage of intergovernmental conferences and meetings, from the 2005 NPT Review Conference to the 2006 Review Conference of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and meetings of the Disarmament Commission. Significant events such as the Nobel Prize being awarded to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were also covered, as were special projects and other activities in the field of disarmament and related activities around the world.

41. For example, the English Language Unit of United Nations Radio produced 45 disarmament-related stories during the reporting period, ranging from highlights of major United Nations conferences and meetings to the developments relating to the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Chinese Language Unit programmes focused, among other things, on non-proliferation, small arms and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. It also produced a number of special features, such as one relating to the exhibition on the theme "Turning swords into ploughs". The Russian Language Unit produced feature stories exploring subjects such as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the related obligations of the Russian Federation as its signatory; a look at different points of view on the question of nuclear non-proliferation; former President Mikhail Gorbachev's reflections on the 2005 NPT Review Conference outcome; and the efficacy of efforts to date to clear unexploded ordnance and abandoned ammunition. The Spanish Language Unit produced stories on disarmament, including a series of programmes on a wide range of topics such as reactions towards an impasse in multilateral disarmament discussions and issues relating to nuclear testing and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Among programmes produced by the French Language Unit were those on small arms trafficking, biological weapons and disarmament projects in Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Rwanda and Uganda. The Arabic Language Unit's programmes highlighted dangers and problems associated with the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons, non-proliferation issues and the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the IAEA and its Director General. The Kiswahili Language Unit's features and news ranged from discussions of small arms and light weapons in Africa to coverage of statements by the Secretary-General on nuclear proliferation and other disarmament-related issues. The Portuguese Language Unit produced programmes on disarmament efforts in specific countries such as Afghanistan, Brazil, Colombia and Côte d'Ivoire. It also covered the project to encourage disarmament in Haiti, whereby guns were exchanged for tickets to a football (soccer) game between Brazil's national team and the Haitian squad. Other programmes looked at disarmament and children, and disarmament and development.

C. Internet

42. The United Nations News Centre web portal devoted over 300 news stories to developments and issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation during the

two-year period. Disarmament within the context of United Nations peacekeeping operations featured in some 100 stories, 60 stories addressed issues pertaining specifically to small arms. In addition to regular distribution to more than 40,000 subscribers in English and French, the News Centre is one of the most heavily visited areas of the United Nations website. With its stories being a subject of significant media pickup around the world, the Centre has become an effective instrument for re-dissemination as well as an important direct source of information.

43. The Department of Public Information continued to maintain the global issues disarmament web page, a comprehensive hub of up-to-date information with links to material across the United Nations system (www.un.org/issues/m-disarm.html). In addition, during the reporting period, the Department of Public Information designed and developed the following disarmament-related websites: the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms (www.un.org/events/smallarms2006/index.html) and its Preparatory Committee (www.un.org/events/smallarms2006/prepcom/); the Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms (www.un.org/events/smallarms2005); the 2005 NPT Review Conference (www.un.org/events/npt2005/). Furthermore, in connection with the launch at the United Nations on 1 June 2006 of the report of the international independent Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission entitled "*Weapons of terror: freeing the world of nuclear, biological and chemical arms*", the Department of Public Information created a website with a link to the press conference given by Hans Blix, Chair of the Commission, and to the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission website itself (www.un.org/terrorism/wmdcreport/).

44. Another web-based resource to raise awareness on global disarmament efforts has been the webcasting technology of the Department of Public Information, by which television coverage of intergovernmental meetings and press conferences on disarmament are posted for live and on-demand Internet viewing. During the reporting period, some 30 webcasts allowed global access to proceedings of the meetings of the General Assembly, the Security Council and other intergovernmental bodies, including the two major disarmament-related meetings mentioned above; comments made by officials at media stakeouts at United Nations Headquarters; and special events and press conferences.

D. Printed materials

45. The Department of Public Information produced extensive meetings coverage on disarmament-related topics, issuing a total of 376 press releases on the subject, 194 of them in English and 182 in French. These ranged from backgrounders to summaries of intergovernmental meetings, reviews and negotiations; and from statements of the Secretary-General and his Spokesman to reports of press conferences. The press releases were distributed in hard copy and posted electronically on the United Nations website for global access.

46. In addition to press materials, the Department of Public Information promoted awareness of disarmament through the following regular and ad hoc publications:

(a) The *UN Chronicle*, published in print in all six United Nations official languages and disseminated in English and French online and by means of the *UN Chronicle* feature service. The *Chronicle* regularly produces articles on

disarmament, including weapons of mass destruction and small arms. In the first quarterly issue each year, it provides comprehensive coverage of the First Committee. During the reporting period, the magazine also featured articles on disarmament, including "Combating biological weapons" by Michael Crowley (Issue 2, 2002), "The road to Iraq's disarmament" by Liz Willmott (Issue 1, 2003), "Certainly as dangerous as a cigarette" by Luis Alfonso de Alba (Issue 2, 2003), "Commitment to the global ban on chemical weapons" by Rogelio Pfirter, "The success of the Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Convention" by Jean Lint (Issue 3, 2003);

(b) *Yearbook of the United Nations*;

(c) New editions of two booklets, *UN in Brief* (in print and online) and *Image and Reality* (online only);

(d) Completely updated 2004 edition of the popular *Basic Facts about the United Nations*, containing a section covering the full range of disarmament issues and the role of the United Nations in this field;

(e) A consolidated publication containing selected United Nations documents on small arms and light weapons produced in cooperation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs, in preparation for the work of the open-ended working group on tracing illicit small arms and light weapons.

E. Civil society and non-governmental organizations

47. The Department of Public Information organized its 58th annual Department of Public Information/NGO Conference, on the theme "Our challenge: voices for peace, partnerships and renewal", with the participation of approximately 1,800 NGO representatives and civil society organizations from 86 countries, representing some 700 organizations. United Nations and Government officials and parliamentarians also participated. During the Conference, a variety of issues relating to international peace, security and disarmament were widely discussed. The midday NGO interactive workshop and multi-stakeholder dialogue also covered those issues. One workshop dealing with disarmament was entitled "Two paths to a culture of peace: nuclear disarmament and the International Day of Peace".

48. During the reporting period, weekly briefings organized by the Department of Public Information for NGO representatives, with regular attendance of about 220 persons, featured specific programmes on the following disarmament-related issues:

- Weapons of mass destruction: the challenges of non-proliferation and disarmament (21 October 2004)
- Preserving outer space for peaceful purposes (20 October 2005)
- Preview of the 2006 United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms (8 June 2006, with the participation of the President-designate of the Conference)

F. Public affairs

49. During the reporting period the Group Programmes Unit of the Department of Public Information organized 47 in-house briefings on disarmament-related issues

for visitors. The Department for Disarmament Affairs participated in the 2005 and 2006 training of Department of Public Information tour guides. The guides are updated on the disarmament-related issues as needed as part of their daily morning briefings.

50. The Department of Public Information worked with the Department for Disarmament Affairs to design and produce a special small arms related exhibition, which was on display in the visitors lobby during the 2006 Review Conference of the Programme of Action on Small Arms. In addition, the Department of Public Information continued to maintain and periodically upgrade the permanent exhibition on the theme "Disarmament: peace through security", which is part of the tour route at United Nations Headquarters. The exhibit includes displays on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and small arms, landmines and chemical and biological weapons. The display is viewed by almost 500,000 visitors per year, bringing its total audience to an estimated 3 million since it was opened in 2000.

G. United Nations information centres, services and offices

51. A number of United Nations information centres, services and offices worldwide initiated and carried out various public information activities in the field of disarmament and arms control, including press and promotional material, workshops, special events, lectures and other programmes.

VI. Conclusions

52. **During the period under review, the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme continued to focus its activities on information in the field of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, and on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.**

53. **Responding to the higher levels of computer literacy and technological capability among its constituents around the globe, the Disarmament Information Programme is orienting its publications to electronic formats. The *Disarmament Yearbook*, the *Occasional Papers* series and "Disarmament Update: News Links" are available on the website of the Department for Disarmament Affairs.**

54. **The website has expanded exponentially in content and specialized web pages have been developed for major conferences, which serve as working tools for participants and vectors of public information. The Department for Disarmament Affairs will continue to improve the website to provide current and accurate information in a dynamic format.**

55. **The Department of Public Information has highlighted disarmament and arms control issues of topical interest, especially nuclear weapons and small arms and light weapons, in print, on the Internet and in film, television and radio, using its large network of Information Centres around the world and its outreach capacity. Its use of the celebrity appeal of the Messenger of Peace in respect of arms control issues has been highly effective. With respect to the 2005 NPT Review Conference and the 2006 Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms, the**

Department of Public Information, in close cooperation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs, has mounted successful information strategies and campaigns, which have helped to clarify messages for public consumption about the issues under consideration by the conferences and the United Nations objectives attached to them.

56. **The Department for Disarmament Affairs is grateful for the support it has received from Governments for the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme and appeals for continued support for its work. It would like to express appreciation in particular to Canada, the Czech Republic, Mexico, Panama, the Republic of Korea and Thailand for their financial contributions to the Trust Fund.**

Notes

[1] NPT/CONF.2005/57 (Part I), para. 35.

[2] Kathleen Sullivan, Coordinator of the Nuclear Weapons Education and Action Project of Educators for Social Responsibility in New York, shared her views on the guiding principles of disarmament and non-proliferation education in the United Nations study on the subject and conducted a classroom demonstration of the firepower of the current nuclear arsenals. Peter Lucas, John W. Draper Master's Program in Humanities and Social Thought at New York University, introduced a detailed curriculum on small arms and human rights created by teachers in training, aimed at high school and early university students.

[3] Projects during the period under review were reported by offices in Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Colombia, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

Annex

Status of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

(United States dollars)

I.	Fund balance as at 1 January 2004	472 480
II.	Income	
	1 January 2004-31 December 2005	
	Voluntary contributions[a]	74 497
	Interest income	17 036
	Miscellaneous income	44 136
	Subtotal	**135 669**
III.	Expenditures	
	1 January 2004-31 December 2005	255 485
	Programme support	32 821
	Prior period adjustments	1 678
	Subtotal	**289 984**
IV.	Fund balance as at 31 December 2005	318 165

Source: based on the statement of income and expenditure for the biennium 2004-2005 ending 31 December 2005. During the period 1 January to 30 June 2006, additional contributions of $7,965 have been received from Canada ($6,965) and Thailand ($1,000).

[a] 2004: Private donor ($46,000), Czech Republic ($4,497), Mexico ($5,000), Panama ($1,000), Republic of Korea ($5,000) and Thailand ($1,000); 2005: Mexico ($5,000), Panama ($1,000), Republic of Korea ($5,000) and Thailand ($1,000).

United Nations A/61/216

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 August 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Item 32 of the provisional agenda*
Questions relating to information

Questions relating to information

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

During the first half of 2006, the Department of Public Information continued to address the strategic priorities of the Organization and its reform agenda emanating from the 2005 World Summit. Using a combination of traditional means of communications and the new information and communications technologies, the Department worked in close cooperation with "client departments" within the Secretariat and field offices worldwide to further expand its outreach services. These efforts were guided by four strategic objectives: the targeted delivery of public information, the enhanced use of the new information and communications technologies, increased partnership with civil society and integrating a culture of evaluation at all levels of work. As a result of the Department's concerted and coordinated efforts, the public information capacity of the Organization was enhanced.

* A/61/150.

06-45405 (E) 250806

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 60/109 B of 8 December 2005, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-eighth session and to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of the recommendations contained in that resolution. Accordingly, the Department of Public Information introduced five reports for consideration by the Committee on Information at its twenty-eighth session, held from 24 April to 5 May 2006 (A/AC.198/2006/1-A/AC.198/2006/5). The deliberations of the Committee with regard to these reports are reflected in its report to the General Assembly (A/61/21).

2. The present report, prepared in response to the above resolution, updates the information already provided to the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on Information, and describes activities undertaken in the past six months by the Department through its four subprogrammes: communications campaign services, news services, library services and outreach services.

II. Overview

3. During the first half of 2006, the Department of Public Information continued to address the strategic priorities of the Organization and its reform agenda emanating from the 2005 World Summit. Using a combination of traditional means of communications, such as print and radio, and new information and communications technologies, such as the Internet and webcasting, the Department worked in close cooperation with over 50 "client departments" within the Secretariat and another 26 field offices to further expand its outreach services to Member States, media and civil society. Three distinct sets of collaborators continued to support the Department's Headquarters staff in their efforts to gain maximum media exposure: the network of United Nations information centres, the United Nations family of organizations, who are now integrated into the United Nations Communications Group, and a global network of over 1,500 civil society organizations affiliated with the Department. The results-based evaluation and monitoring approach, which now forms a cornerstone of the Department's work programme, further bolstered its efforts to better formulate communications campaigns, identify the most effective tools and achieve the desired results.

III. Communications campaigns services

A. Thematic campaigns

Human Rights Council

4. One of the key outcomes of the 2005 World Summit was the decision by the General Assembly to establish a new Human Rights Council replacing the Commission on Human Rights. The Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Offices of the President of the General Assembly and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, designed a communications strategy that aimed to draw the world's attention to the milestone event and to its historic significance. In advance of the inaugural session of the Human Rights

Council, it developed key messages for use by United Nations spokespersons, including those in the field, and distributed press materials explaining the Council's mandate and modalities. When the Council opened its session in Geneva, the Department prepared news stories and daily summaries of the session's proceedings and had them posted on United Nations websites. At the conclusion of the session, a summary of the main achievements of the Council session was prepared and posted, together with all other press materials, on the Department's *News Focus* webpage. It coordinated a live webcast and archived recordings of the first week of the Council session — the first time this has been done for a human rights meeting in Geneva — an initiative which was warmly welcomed by many, especially in the community of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

5. The Department's media outreach during the session resulted in key interviews with the General Assembly President for National Public Radio, the British Broadcasting Corporation's *The World Today* (Radio) and British Broadcasting Corporation Television, American Broadcasting Corporation Radio (Australia), *Le Temps*, *Tribune de Geneve*, *Mainichi* and *Svenska Dagbladet* (Stockholm). The Department also acted as media liaison for the President of the Human Rights Council, organizing four press encounters and more than 40 interviews during the two-week session, as well as responding to many press inquiries from the Geneva press corps.

International migration and development

6. In preparation for the launch of the report of the Secretary-General on migration and development in May 2006 (A/60/871), the Department of Public Information, in close coordination with the Office of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative on Migration, as well as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, undertook a number of media outreach activities, both at Headquarters and through its network of information centres. A press kit was prepared and press briefings and interviews were arranged for the launch of the report of the Secretary-General. An op-ed by the Secretary-General was placed in 32 major newspapers in 27 countries. The report launch generated substantial media coverage, including by major wire services, the *International Herald Tribune*, the British Broadcasting Corporation, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and the *Los Angeles Times*.

7. As part of its communications strategy, the Department developed four key messages for the launch of the report of the Secretary-General on migration and development (ibid):

(a) The United Nations is a good place for Governments to talk about migration;

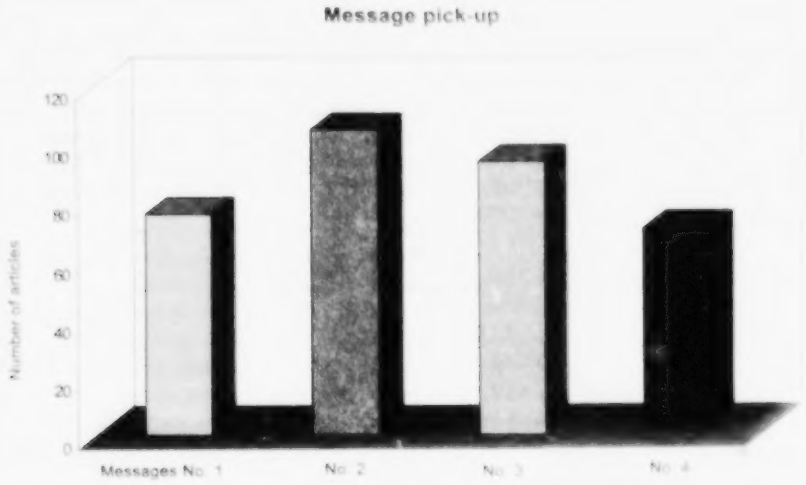
(b) Well-managed migration brings many advantages;

(c) Migration in today's interdependent global economy is a fact of life; and

(d) Cooperation on migration can alleviate tensions and social costs.

Out of 130 articles analysed, 94 per cent of the coverage included United Nations messages (see table below). Message 2 (on the benefits of migration) was cited in 80 per cent of the coverage. Some 17 per cent of all articles included this message in

their title, with half of them linking this message directly to the Secretary-General in the headline. In Africa, message 3 (on migration and interdependence) predominated.



United Nations Small Arms Review Conference

8. Months before the June-July 2006 United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, the Department of Public Information and its client, the Department for Disarmament Affairs, began drafting a communications strategy to promote the Review Conference and the issue. Products developed for the Review Conference included a press kit, a poster, a televised public service announcement by actor and United Nations Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas, and a dedicated website in all six official languages. Extensive guidance on how to promote the issue and the Review Conference was provided to all United Nations information centres. The Department of Public Information also worked with NGOs to organize the presentation of their "One Million Faces" petition to the Secretary-General, calling for a legally binding treaty.

9. The Review Conference faced strong opposition from pro-gun lobbies in the United States, but the Department quickly responded to their criticisms. With explanatory messages and guidance for its spokespersons and field offices, as well as with robust rebuttals to misinformation, it dismissed charges that the United Nations was "conspiring" to ban legal ownership of firearms by civilians. Letters to editors setting the record straight were published in *The Economist* and *The Wall Street Journal*. Key international press agencies, including the *Associated Press*, *United Press International* and *Reuters*, repeatedly pointed out that protests received from pro-gun citizens were based on erroneous information.

10. Although the Review Conference ended without an agreement among Member States on an outcome document to address future cooperation and activities, the issue of control of illicit small arms received widespread coverage in major media

around the world, with more than 1,200 clippings or transcripts monitored from print, electronic and web-based media, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Asahi Shimbun*, *The Australian*, *Bangkok Post*, *O Estado de São Paulo*, *Financial Times*, *The Hindu*, *Le Monde*, *The Nation* (Nairobi), *The London Observer*, *El País*, *Der Spiegel* and *Toronto Star*.

The question of Palestine

11. The Department, in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation, organized the fourteenth annual International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East in Moscow on 7 and 8 June 2006, with the theme "New Challenges in the Middle East Peace Process and Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue". The participants included 10 Israelis and 12 Palestinians, including the mayors of Ashdod (Israel) and Gaza (Palestinian Territory), and the former mayor of Ashkelon (Israel). They expressed support for joining forces to explore common projects that would benefit both societies, and to meet on a regular basis to assess progress in their inter-community collaboration. The proceedings of the seminar were reported by major newspapers in the Middle East, including the *Jerusalem Post*, *Yediot Aharanoth*, *Palestine Post*, *Ha'aretz*, *WAFA* (Palestinian News Agency), *Al-Ayyam*, and *Al-Ahram*.

- Stressing the usefulness of the face-to-face encounter, Liat Collins of the *Jerusalem Post* wrote, "Getting Israeli and Palestinian journalists to talk to each other around a Tel Aviv-style table is entirely to the point."

The Department of Public Information and the New Partnership for Africa's Development

12. The Department continued to promote Africa by highlighting the goals of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and by presenting the achievements and challenges facing the region. These efforts were facilitated by the broad reach of the Department's quarterly magazine, *Africa Renewal/Afrique renouveau*. Each issue of the quarterly is now read in print and online by some 250,000 people interested in Africa. Helped by growing relationships with major media in Africa, feature articles from the magazine continued to be reproduced in influential national and regional media. During the period under review, a total of 62 articles were published in 27 media (14 print and 13 online) in 14 African countries, including: *The Daily Graphic* (Ghana), *The East African* and *The Kenya Times* (Kenya), *The Japan Times* (Japan), *moAfrika* (Lesotho), *L'Essor* (Mali), *Sud Quotidien* (Senegal), *Business Day* (South Africa), *Khartoum Monitor* (the Sudan), *The Guardian* (United Republic of Tanzania), and *The Daily Mail* (Zambia). Articles were also reprinted in *The China Daily* and *The South China Morning Post* (China), *Bangkok Post* (Thailand) and *Afrika Hoje* (Portugal, Brazil and the African Lusophone countries). In the United States, the influential *Washington Notes on Africa* carried two *Africa Renewal* articles on migration in its spring-summer 2006 issue.

- With its special issue of *Africa Renewal* on HIV/AIDS in Africa, *Silent No More*, available in English and French, the Department is playing a key role in awareness-raising about AIDS in Africa. Some 4,400 copies of the special issue in English were shipped in response to orders from 36 countries. Some 2,500 copies of *Afrique renouveau* were distributed separately to 21 countries in sub-Saharan and North Africa, as well as to Canada, France, Germany, and the United States of America.

B. The Department of Public Information and United Nations peacekeeping

Cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations

13. The Department of Public Information has continued to work closely with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to further develop and refine its global communications strategy in support of United Nations peace operations. The two Departments co-sponsored the third Meeting of Chiefs of Public Information at United Nations Headquarters in New York (10-12 April 2006), which brought together chiefs of information from 18 United Nations peacekeeping and political missions, along with a large number of Headquarters personnel. The overall aim of the meeting was to provide a forum for dialogue among information staff and the possibility for direct interaction between them and Headquarters personnel. Attention was focused on key doctrinal issues affecting the way public information is conducted in the field and how it is supported at Headquarters.

14. The Department of Public Information also provided specific support for peacekeeping missions in the field. It developed and implemented a strategy to assist the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) in promoting the first elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in more than 40 years, in coordination with other partners, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Department of Public Information also participated in the formulation of detailed plans to strengthen the African Union Mission in the Sudan and for a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Darfur, including sending a representative on the Technical Assessment Mission, and assisted the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in its media relations relating to the Darfur crisis. Most recently, the Department of Public Information assisted in addressing the urgent public information requirements that emerged as a result of the crisis in Lebanon. This included the drafting of messaging guidance and assisting in the deployment of public information staff to the country.

15. On the occasion of the third annual observance of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers (29 May), the Department of Public Information issued a press kit, developed a special website, produced and displayed memorial panels to honour those who lost their lives in 2004 while on United Nations peacekeeping duty. Various public and media events were organized by United Nations information centres and other United Nations offices around the world.

16. During the reporting period, the Department of Public Information issued three publications in support of United Nations peacekeeping: *United Nations Peace Operations — Year in Review 2005*; the second revision of the booklet *United Nations Peacekeeping: Meeting New Challenges — Frequently asked questions*; and *Rapid Public Information Response in UN Peacekeeping Operations — DPI Training Manual*.

Peacebuilding Commission and United Nations Democracy Fund

17. In preparation for the first meeting of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission, held on 23 June, the Department prepared a fact sheet, created a website, carried out other media activities and sent guidance and information material to United Nations information centres to help publicize the inaugural meeting of the Commission. The Department also provided public

information assistance to the United Nations Democracy Fund to promote its activities.

IV. United Nations information centres

18. The Department of Public Information took further measures to integrate the network of United Nations information centres into its overall communications strategies and workplan. As part of this process, it developed a database for the input of communications workplans by various sections at Headquarters and by the individual information centres. Posted on the newly created internal website, StratCom, the information on the global activities planned for any given strategic communications priority and the status of their implementation is now available to programme managers in the Department's Information Centres Service. It is envisaged that, as the implementation progresses and concludes, the Department will be able to easily determine the status of any information centre activity and, at the conclusion, using the data posted by individual information centres, prepare a qualitative assessment of the effectiveness of these activities.

19. Further progress was also made in the coordination of communications at the field level. With the endorsement in March 2006 by the United Nations Communications Group of the guidelines for the establishment and functioning of country-level communications groups, several of these country-level groups have been established. In two regions, the Middle East and Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Communications Groups have been brought under a regional umbrella. By bringing together communications staff of all field offices under the local and regional United Nations Communications Groups, there will be greater cohesiveness in the messages put forward by the United Nations country teams. The United Nations Communications Group, which held its fifth annual meeting at the principals' level in June 2006, agreed to further strengthen the United Nations Communications Groups at the country and regional levels by promoting joint work programmes and resource-sharing. Under the previously agreed guidelines, United Nations information centres have been asked to provide the secretariat for local United Nations Communications Groups. Also, a number of information centres have been tasked with managing the United Nations country teams' web presence in the country of operation and to coordinate the content management of their websites.

20. In addition to strengthening the local web presence (currently 47 United Nations information centres maintain websites in 5 official and 26 unofficial languages), information centres made progress in developing better online strategies. The technical team in the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe in Brussels has developed a content management system that will enable local staff in information centres to update and maintain their own websites through a user-friendly interface. Starting with information centres in sub-Saharan Africa, the project envisions that all websites maintained by the information centres will be accessible and uniform while still addressing the information needs of their local audiences. The domain name <www.unic.org> was registered for this purpose and will become the umbrella website encompassing the global network of information centres.

21. United Nations information centres have continued to take advantage of communications opportunities to promote United Nations messages both to

established and new audiences. For example, the 2006 World Cup provided an excellent opportunity to peg the United Nations messages of peace and development to a broad and diverse global audience. Several information centres organized special activities, often involving young audiences. Among those, United Nations information centres in Dakar and Yaoundé organized student web chats with counterparts assembled at a youth event in Enshede in the Netherlands, discussing the role of sport in promoting peace, dialogue and development. This activity, involving the Department's Global Teaching and Learning Project, took advantage of the low-cost technology acquired for a similar activity planned around the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2005 in Tunis, and again demonstrated the effectiveness of using technology in bringing together diverse audiences to exchange views and ideas in the spirit of dialogue and cooperation. In Côte d'Ivoire, the United Nations Mission organized a highly successful youth football tournament that brought together participants from the warring parties, while the United Nations information centre in Brazzaville brought youngsters from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to the centre premises to watch the final game of the World Cup. The United Nations information centre in Lomé hosted several events including a football tournament for orphaned children organized in cooperation with local NGOs. The centre distributed T-shirts featuring a photo of the Togolese football team and the slogan "Sport for Development and Peace".

22. United Nations information centres took an active part in the implementation of the integrated communications strategy leading to the recent review conference on small arms (see paras. 8-10 above). Taking advantage of the seed money provided for in the Conference budget, information centres prepared a comprehensive programme of communications activities emphasizing local angles. United Nations information centres in Antananarivo, Dakar, Lagos, Moscow, Ouagadougou and Pretoria organized briefings and public discussions among key local stakeholders on the issues before the Conference, some of them aired on television and on national and local radio stations. Conference information materials were translated into a number of local languages. Several information centres also arranged for the publication of newspaper supplements featuring the issues before the review conference.

23. United Nations information centres were also instrumental in generating extensive local media coverage of the inaugural session of the Human Rights Council. With their assistance, an op-ed article on the Human Rights Council by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was placed in 19 papers in 19 countries, including in *Alwasat* (Bahrain), the *Egyptian Gazette* (Egypt), *Le Temps* (Switzerland), *The Nation* (Kenya), *Reforma* (Mexico), *Jornal de Noticias* (Portugal), *Avvenire* (Italy), and *The Scotsman* (Scotland). The Regional Information Centre in Brussels alone translated the article into five Nordic languages and placed it in *Politiken* (Danish daily), *Helsingin Sanomat* (Finnish daily) *Fréttablaðið* (Icelandic daily), and *Dagbladet* (Norwegian daily).

V. News services

A. The Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General

24. The Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General conducts the daily noon briefing and keeps the press, delegations and the public informed, not only of

06-45405

the work of the Secretary-General, but also of developments throughout the United Nations system. During the past year (July 2005 through June 2006), the Spokesman held 241 press briefings. His Office also organized 20 press conferences given by the Secretary-General at Headquarters and abroad, 83 press briefings by Member States, 169 press conferences by senior officials, and 14 background briefings. In addition, the Office coordinated 106 press encounters and 37 press interviews with the Secretary-General at Headquarters and during his official visits to Member States.

News services

The United Nations website

25. The United Nations website completed its eleventh year as one of the premier sites providing a wide range of news and information in multiple forms — audio, video and photos, as well as text — in multiple languages to users around the world. On a typical weekday, users now view more than a million pages of material in the six official languages, and more than 15,000 video clips. Enhancing the quantity and range of material available in all official languages continues to be a major priority for the Department. Since January 2006, the Web Services Section has posted an average of almost 570 new pages per official language, with an average of 2,216 pages updated per language. The Section also created 13 websites in multiple languages for specific events and occasions, such as the conference on the illegal trade in small arms; the report on weapons of mass destruction; the twentieth anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe; the report of the Secretary-General, *Uniting Against Terrorism*; a site for the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust; and one for the Peacebuilding Commission.

Accessibility for persons with disabilities

26. The main pages of the website that are published in the six official languages have been revised to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities. These pages feature Accessibility level I and II compliance. Level I is composed of minimum requirements, while level II requirements further enhance access by persons with disabilities. All new pages created will be compliant with at least level I, and most with level II. These pages are now much faster to download than before. New guidelines have been put in place by the Web Services Section in order to monitor compliance with accessibility levels. Many staff members have been trained in how to implement them and the necessary software tools have been procured and installed. This new effort has resulted in about a 20 per cent increase in average production time for new web pages.

Website governance

27. Since the inception of the governance system for United Nations Internet publishing, the United Nations website has grown enormously in terms of multilingual text material and the amount of audio, graphics and video material available. Although there are web-based publishing guidelines that aim to standardize publishing tools and applications for the United Nations website, a wide range of non-standard applications have been used by various content-providing offices in the United

Nations Secretariat and have created incompatibility between sub-sites. This means that replication of the site as part of a disaster recovery system is impossible. Furthermore, this incompatibility has made it difficult to share data among sub-sites.

28. The introduction of an enterprise content management system, now under way, will permit improved technical standardization, as well as in presentation. With an enterprise content management system, the site will have a more streamlined architecture and therefore easier to back up, and will address the requirement that all information technology systems be interoperable. The scale and complexity of the present United Nations website, its new enterprise content management system, and the need for adequate back-up capacity, all require a strengthened governance structure. The Department is addressing the issue of Internet governance with the Information Technology Services Division of the Department of Management, with a view to establishing technical standards and an improved governance system.

Internet broadcasting

29. The use of Internet broadcasting, or webcasting, has grown as a cost-effective and efficient tool to deliver major United Nations events in real time to audiences around the world. During 2005, a total of 6,124,401 visitors viewed webcasts from either the live United Nations Internet broadcast page or from its archive library. The number of subscribers to the e-mail alert system for the daily Internet broadcast schedule more than doubled in 2005, to 5,120. Currently, Internet broadcasts of all open meetings of the General Assembly and Security Council are available in the floor language. Webcast coverage was also provided to meetings of the Human Rights Council and the Economic and Social Council in Geneva. The expansion of Internet broadcasting to include other languages is being actively pursued.

United Nations News Centre

30. As part of its overall strategy to fully harness the potential of the Internet for worldwide dissemination of the latest news and information about the United Nations, the Department continued to develop the *United Nations News Centre* portal, while enhancing the efficacy of the associated United Nations News Service by improving the scope, timeliness, accuracy and balance of its coverage of United Nations work at Headquarters and around the world. The portal's visibility has increased substantially on several leading online search engines, including Google, whose "Directory" service currently features *United Nations News Centre* among the top 24 news sites. Similarly, the Best-2006.com website has listed *United Nations News Centre* among its selection of 37 top sites under the "News" category. Another encouraging sign is the growing popularity of the portal's *News Focus* feature, designed to address the need to respond rapidly to breaking developments by providing easy access to a wide range of source materials on major developments and issues in the news. At the same time, the email news service in French and English continued to gain new subscribers, with a combined total reaching nearly 43,000.

Other services to the media

31. The Department continues to provide coverage in the form of press releases of all open intergovernmental meetings, as well as press conferences. In the first six months of 2006, the Department produced a total of 2,164 such releases (8,847 pages) in English and French. Last year, coverage was extended with the provision

of releases of briefings of the spokespersons for the President of the General Assembly and for the Secretary-General, in French, as well as English.

32. The Department also continues to facilitate access by media for coverage of United Nations activities at Headquarters and overseas by providing accreditation, liaison and other services through its Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit. From February to June 2006, the Department issued 673 permanent and 784 temporary press accreditations, performed 1,369 liaison assignments, and conducted 12 tours for groups of students or professional journalists. It also provided information about, and logistical assistance for 294 media stake-outs. During this period, 148 press conferences/briefings were held and attended by 3,425 journalists.

Placement of op-ed articles

33. To maximize opportunities presented by such traditional venues of media discourse as newspaper opinion pages and Letters to the Editor, the Department, with the help of its network of United Nations information centres, stepped up efforts to ensure the widest possible placement of articles by the Secretary-General and senior United Nations officials. The Department worked closely with substantive departments to provide advice and assistance on placement-related issues by utilizing its media outreach expertise both at Headquarters and throughout its global network of information centres. For example, the Secretary-General's article tied to the opening of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup was published in over 70 papers in more than 40 countries. Helping to amplify the message, the article, which highlighted the Organization's goals and activities, also generated considerable news coverage by wire services and a variety of other media outlets and websites.

C. "Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About"

34. Continuing its efforts to draw attention to important issues and developments that often slip off the media radar screen, the Department released its third annual list of "Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About". As in previous years, the 2006 list spanned geographical regions and covered a broad spectrum of topics, including Liberia's development challenge after years of civil war, challenges faced by illegal migrants worldwide, the humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and children caught in Nepal's civil strife. Developed in close consultation with other United Nations offices and programmes, and with input from United Nations information centres, the initiative generated considerable media coverage. The special "Ten Stories" page on the United Nations website, available in all official languages, registered a substantial increase in traffic and usage of its materials, and related stories published on the *United Nations News Centre* and produced by United Nations Radio, continue to be picked up by a wide range of outlets and websites, including those of NGOs, educational and academic institutions and the media.

D. Radio, television and United Nations photo services

35. Aware of the important role radio can play in spreading the United Nations message, the Department has continued to strengthen its radio programming and to

expand its partnerships with international broadcasters. All six official language radio websites and those for Portuguese and Kiswahili were given major technical overhauls this past year. The Department also made available on the United Nations Radio website its programming in four Asian languages — Bangla, Hindi, Urdu and Indonesian. The new radio pages use database-driven technology which enables much faster downloading time and easier, faster searching. These improvements also enable broadcasters and the general public to find a broader range of material, such as unedited interviews and speeches. A pilot project was undertaken with resources from the United Nations Foundation to serve North American radio audiences with news reports, features and "raw" audio via the web.

36. The FTP (file transfer protocol) access to raw audio maintained by the Department's Audio Library has also proved extremely useful, allowing stake-outs and other breaking news to be made almost immediately available to media outlets. This capacity will be expanded and offered as well on the website. Efforts are under way to develop the means to make the sites more flexible in order to allow stories to be posted to the site as they become available. The Department has also introduced software to determine who is downloading radio material and which material is being downloaded.

37. Improvements in delivery systems, along with active promotion of its programmes, have led to further expansion of United Nations Radio's potential audience reach. The number of radio partners has already increased from 317 in December 2005 to 344 in June 2006, confirming the continued growth in United Nations Radio's listeners demonstrated in the extensive survey carried out of the Department's radio and television partners in 2005.

38. The potential audience for United Nations Television products has also increased, thanks to "UNifeed", an inter-agency satellite news service spearheaded by the Department and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). For the first time, the United Nations is offering timely field video six days a week to a worldwide network of broadcasters via the world's largest television news agency, the Associated Press Television News, and the European Broadcasting Union. It is expected that the feed will be distributed by the Asia Broadcasting Union next year. In keeping with its culture of evaluation, the Department has contracted a video tracking company to report on the use of its products, and the results so far show that they are being used by international broadcasters in every part of the world. Video distribution will be further enhanced by a web-based system to be launched by year's end, which will enable it to offer video material and stories in various formats, giving broadcasters more material and to make it available longer than satellite distribution allows. Web delivery will also enable United Nations Television to offer more interviews with United Nations officials for broadcasters to incorporate into their programming.

39. In order to offer a more in-depth perspective on United Nations issues, the Department has begun producing a 26-minute television news magazine show, entitled *21st Century*. A pilot for the monthly programme has been distributed to television networks around the globe. This replaces *World Chronicle*, an English-only talk show which was no longer attracting audiences, according to a survey commissioned by the Department.

40. The production of *UN in Action*, a weekly feature on the work of the United Nations continues, as do the United Nations contributions to *CNN World Report*.

Two United Nations stories were recently honoured with awards for excellence from the Cable News Network.

41. The Department is currently in the final stages of negotiations of various partnership deals with broadcasters and redisseminators, including with Canal France International for the distribution of *UN in Action* to 80 countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East; France 24 for the distribution of *UN in Action* and *21st Century*; and Radio France Internationale/World Space for United Nations Radio, among others.

42. The Department is also improving the distribution of its photographs. The Networked Interactive Content Access application, introduced in 2004, has continued to serve as a stable and reliable photo digital assets management system. The Networked Interactive Content Access has helped streamline the production and distribution of United Nations photos with a central photo repository, offering a wider selection of images and a better photo collection management system. With the close collaboration of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, thematic photo galleries are now displayed on the monitors outside of Headquarters conference rooms.

43. In its ongoing efforts to preserve and disseminate its valuable audio-visual archives, the Department of Public Information is working with the International Federation of Television Archives and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on a project to digitize its collections as a showcase preservation project.

E. Print products

44. In May 2006, the Department published the revised edition of *Basic Facts About the United Nations* in French and Spanish. This completely updated, Internet-friendly edition, provides a comprehensive, yet concise overview of the diverse activities of the United Nations system. A revised edition of the smaller, companion volume, *United Nations in Brief*, was simultaneously issued in all six official languages. During this same period, an updated version of *Image & Reality — Questions and Answers about the United Nations*, was published on the United Nations website.

VI. Library services

A. Dag Hammarskjöld Library

45. The ongoing focus for the Dag Hammarskjöld Library has been to follow up on new strategic directions for United Nations libraries, outlined in the report of the Secretary-General (A/AC.198/2005/4). This includes the expanded role given to the Library in improving knowledge sharing and internal communications within the United Nations Secretariat. Since February 2006, three presentations by well-known experts were offered in the Library on issues related to the management of content and content searching, and issues concerned with internal communication. The Library also arranged for an Internet search specialist to provide a week of training for Secretariat staff that focused on advanced Internet searching techniques. This

highly successful programme was attended by over 200 staff members from 11 departments.

46. Expanding the outreach capacity of depository libraries continues to remain a major focus. As of July 2006, there were 406 active depository libraries in 145 countries receiving United Nations documents and publications. Changes in information and communication technology make it possible to disseminate information and knowledge through electronic means. These new networks will require more support and training to depository libraries, however. In May 2006, through a partnership with Kyung Hee University in the Republic of Korea, a training programme was offered for representatives from nine depository libraries. The Library is exploring other partnerships to further develop training and support for depository libraries and to promote and extend the outreach capacity of the United Nations, based on this model. The activities of the depository library programme are now being reviewed.

47. The Library continues to guide the development and expansion of the Organization's Intranet, iSeek, with a view to enhancing and improving this tool for internal organizational communications. In September 2005, iSeek was re-launched. By the end of 2005, special arrangements were made to make iSeek accessible to all United Nations information centres; in May 2006, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific became the first overseas office to fully participate in the programme through the launch of its own iSeek page, followed in July 2006 by the United Nations Office at Geneva, which launched its bilingual English-French iSeek. Other duty stations are progressing towards full participation. In June of 2006 more than 50 participants from New York and other duty stations came together at the Library to discuss the role of iSeek and how it can be used to support the Secretariat internal communications strategy.

48. The Library continues its efforts to bring high quality information resources to the desktops of official United Nations system users through the purchasing of relevant online information services. Acquisition of most of these services is coordinated through the United Nations System Electronic Information Acquisitions Consortium, which has succeeded in negotiating considerably lower prices for many United Nations system libraries.

B. Educational outreach service

The United Nations Works Programme

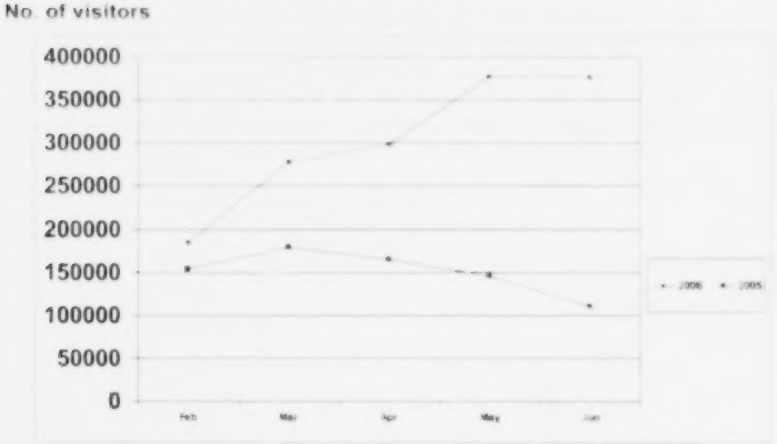
49. With the seismic shift in the way young people access information and communicate, the Department's educational outreach service, now part of the library services, has refocused its strategies to take advantage of new trends and to expand the United Nations outreach to this key demographic group. A key partner in this initiative has been the United States-based MTV network, which now has 164 channels in 103 countries with over a billion viewers. Following its successful partnership on United Nations relief efforts in Pakistan following the 2005 earthquake, the United Nations Works Programme is launching a new global campaign with MTV about the water crisis in developing countries. The partnership, which involves UNICEF and UNDP, will include television specials, news segments, a dedicated website, radio and television spots; free downloadable lesson plans and an online action centre to encourage young people to get involved.

- The MTV United Nations Works documentary on the earthquake in Pakistan was nominated in June for the first-ever Emmy award for original news and documentary programming created specifically for non-traditional viewing platforms, including computers, mobile phones, portable media players and similar devices.

Cyberschoolbus

50. The Cyberschoolbus website, which is part of the Department's Global Teaching and Learning Project, has significantly increased its reach across the world. During the period from February to June 2006, visitors to the Cyberschoolbus ranged from 184,079 in February to a new record of 377,668 in May. This represents a 100 per cent increase in visitors over the same period one year ago.

Total number of visitors to the Cyberschoolbus from February to June in 2005 and 2006



Graphic design

51. The Graphic Design Unit continues to create visual branding for the United Nations global campaigns on key issues such as HIV/AIDS, and initiatives to advance awareness, technical knowledge and education. Notable examples include the award-winning poster design for the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, the logo designs for indigenous people and book designs for United Nations publications.

VII. Outreach services

Partnership with non-governmental organizations

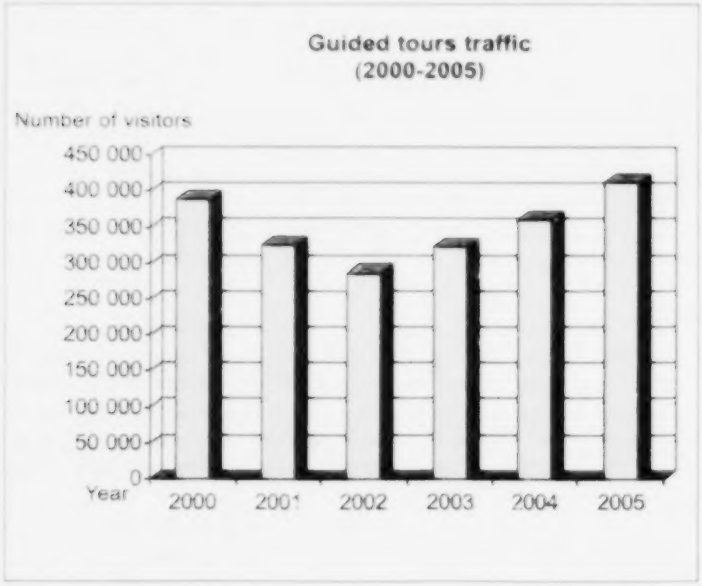
52. The fifty-ninth Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations, scheduled to be held from 6 to 8 September 2006, entitled "Unfinished Business: Effective Partnerships for Human Security and

Sustainable Development", aims to further strengthen the Department's partnership with NGOs and civil society. Throughout the three-day Conference participants will have various opportunities to network and exchange views, opinions, expertise and best practices on relevant issues. In addition to five plenary sessions and six round tables, there will be 30 midday NGO workshops featuring the participation of representatives of civil society, the United Nations, Government and the private sector.

53. In the first half of 2006, the Department associated 50 new NGOs and disassociated 78 organizations that no longer meet the criteria for association, bringing the total number of NGOs associated with the Department to 1,564 as of July 2006.

Guided tours and briefings for visitors

54. The guided tour operation, which experienced a banner year in 2005, continued, in the first half of 2006, to see an upward trend in the number of visitors exploring United Nations Headquarters. In conjunction with taking the guided tour, visiting groups often attend briefings by United Nations officials on United Nations-related topics. These briefings — as well as outside speaking engagements — are also organized by the Department, which manages the United Nations Speakers' Bureau. From 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, over 1,000 in-house briefings, 50 outside speaking engagements and 24 video conferences were organized.



Documentary film festival

55. In its continuing effort to build awareness for the Millennium Development Goals and to connect with a wide range of audiences, the Department organized the

second United Nations Documentary Film Festival, "Stories from the Field", in May 2006, in collaboration with the Media Communications Association and the New School in New York. Preparations for the third festival have begun. In another initiative, the Department collaborated with a United States-based entity which organized a nationwide film competition, that targeted students in more than 300 colleges and via the Internet, to promote the Millennium Development Goals, and invited their students to create short films on important social issues relevant to the goals.

Exhibits

56. Exhibitions at Headquarters provide an educational and cultural experience for the 1 million visitors passing through the Public Lobby annually. A large number of exhibits were mounted during the period under review, including a joint project with the National Geographic Society focusing on indigenous peoples, which coincided with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in May 2006. Also notable are multiple projects displayed for the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on AIDS (31 May-2 June 2006), including panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt shown along with a photo-essay collaboration with *Newsweek Magazine* and UNAIDS. Exhibits sponsored by Permanent Missions ranged from World Heritage Sites in Mexico and Cambodia to the theme of globalization presented by Switzerland. An unusual topic was covered in "Earth's Elders", an exhibition of portraits and stories of men and women from around the world who are 110 years old. Other topics included child labour and forced labour (International Labour Organization), small arms, inequality (*Human Development Report*) and journalistic freedom (Alexia Foundation and World Press Photo). An exhibit in the Headquarters Public Lobby on illicit weapons drew thousands of viewers and widespread coverage, particularly by Latin American media, after the exhibit was inaugurated by a Colombian rock band, featuring a guitar fashioned from a rifle.

Holocaust and the United Nations outreach programme

57. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 60/7 on 1 November 2005, the Department established the Holocaust and the United Nations outreach programme to raise awareness of the lessons of the Holocaust and of the dangers of hatred, bigotry, racism and prejudice in order to help to prevent future acts of genocide. The core elements of the outreach programme included an annual commemorative ceremony for Holocaust Remembrance Day, observed on 27 January, which in 2006 launched an annual lecture on the theme of "Remembrance and Beyond"; a film series with the New York Tolerance Center; a series of discussion papers in English and French on the subject of the Holocaust and the prevention of genocide drafted by scholars around the globe; presentations to intergovernmental and civil society organizations by the Department's programme managers; and a gateway website to facilitate development of educational curricula on the Holocaust by Member States. As part of this programme, the Department has initiated new partnerships with civil society organizations worldwide that have a proven record in Holocaust remembrance and education. It also organizes an annual seminar on Holocaust Awareness and Genocide Prevention. Details on this seminar and other activities held through May 2006 have been reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the programme of outreach on the "Holocaust and the United Nations" (A/60/882). Since issuance of

the report, the Department made presentations to the Association of Holocaust Organizations on 12 June, an international conference on Holocaust education at Yad Vashem, Israel, on 28 June, and to the La Fondation pour la Memoire de la Shoah on 5 July. In early 2006, a joint exhibit was launched for the first official Holocaust Remembrance at the United Nations. Artworks by children who were in the death camps at Terezin were contributed by the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic along with "No Child's Play", from Yad Vashem. The film series on the Holocaust, also a part of the programme, continued with the screening of *The Pianist* on 19 July, and Professor Ben Kiernan, Director of the Genocide Studies Programme at Yale University, drafted the second in the series of discussion papers on lessons to be learned from the Holocaust.

Journalists' Fellowship Programme

58. For the twenty-fifth successive year, the Department will bring a group of journalists from developing countries to New York in September 2006, to participate in the Reham Al-Farra Memorial Journalists' Fellowship Programme. During a six-week period, they will have the opportunity to report on meetings of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, including the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. Since the Programme's inception in 1981, more than 360 journalists from 153 countries have benefited from the Fellowship Programme.

- According to an evaluation of the 2005 programme, all participants found the experience "a unique and worthwhile opportunity". The journalists rated 75 per cent of the briefings as "highly interesting and useful". Without exception, the journalists found the debates organized among high-level United Nations officials and representatives of Permanent Missions to be highly informative and one of the most interesting elements of the programme.

Academic initiatives

59. As part of the Department's continuing effort to draw upon the involvement of the academic community in policy thinking and evolution at the United Nations, a new section has been created in the Department which combines two flagship reference publications, the *Yearbook of the United Nations* and the *UN Chronicle*, with the provision of print, electronic and convening forums for shared thinking on issues vital to the Organization and its Member States.

60. During the past 12 months, the *UN Chronicle Online* version in English registered an average of approximately 95,000 page views per month, while the French online version, *Chronique ONU: Edition en ligne*, registered an average of approximately 38,000 page views per month. There has been a dramatic increase in the references to and citations of the *UN Chronicle* since it began to consciously target academic audiences. Its articles have been cited in over 500 pages of books indexed by Google's new book search engine. *UN Chronicle*'s regular educational *E-Alerts* are referenced over 900 times by Google and its articles are referenced over 80,000 times. All of these results are from outside the main United Nations website. Using Questia, the world's largest online library, references or reprints of *UN Chronicle* articles are cited over 2,600 times, including in 80 books.

61. The *Yearbook of the United Nations* is published annually and covers all major activities undertaken by the United Nations within the calendar year. The 2004

edition, the fifty-eighth volume in a series of annual publications, will be issued in early September. The publication is the primary comprehensive and authoritative reference book on the United Nations, and its users are mainly diplomats, Government officials, academics, journalists and others with a special interest in international affairs. Based on last year's sales and distribution, the Section will issue 2,800 books of the 2004 edition.

62. The Higher Education Outreach Project, which uses videoconferencing as a communications and learning tool, was developed through an agreement between the United Nations Department of Public Information, Fairleigh Dickinson University and the United Nations Association of the United States. Students and educators at Fairleigh Dickinson and other colleges and universities possessing the required technical capabilities are able to follow and participate in discussions among United Nations ambassadors, diplomats and other distinguished experts. In addition, these are webcast and archived online. The first event, "The Coming Avian Flu Pandemic: Its Scope and Consequences on a Global Society", was hosted by Fairleigh Dickinson on 3 November 2005. A second videoconference, "Equality, Empowerment and Education: a New Era for Latin American Women", was held on 27 April 2006.

United Nations Messengers of Peace

63. With the support of the World Health Organization Tuberculosis Unit and the Stop TB Campaign, United Nations Messenger of Peace Anna Cataldi visited East Africa, to focus media attention on tuberculosis. The visit has resulted in a television documentary on the impact of tuberculosis in Kenya as well as Ms. Cataldi's participation in a high profile media event in Milan, Italy, to observe World TB Day, and other media events. Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas featured in a public service announcement to raise awareness of the illicit trade in small arms and to promote the United Nations Small Arms Review Conference. The public service announcement, produced as a joint project of the Department of Public Information, the Department of Disarmament Affairs and United Nations information centres, was for the first time produced in 20 languages and successfully broadcast in more than 40 countries.

VIII. A culture of evaluation

64. The analysis of the work of the Department of Public Information with the media, specifically the impact of public information and communications campaigns, is an area in which the Department has been working to establish more systematic assessment. To this end, the Department has provided training to staff members by external media monitoring specialists, who also helped to create a media analysis tool for use by communications campaign managers. Most recently, as a result of the training, the Department embarked on a pilot project to involve United Nations information centres in global systematic media monitoring and analysis. The results of the project will be used to improve the Department's communications planning, as well as to develop its analytic capacities in the area of international press coverage.

65. In building its capacity for systematic assessment, the Department continues to benefit from partnerships on a pro bono basis. One recent example was a survey

carried out by the International Association of Applied Psychology and the Department. The survey underlined the usefulness of the Department's annual NGO conference, with almost all respondents viewing the event favourably and 62 per cent attending often or very often. Most importantly, the relevance of a strong relationship between the Department and NGOs was reaffirmed, with 86 per cent of respondents emphasizing that working effectively with the United Nations was vital to carrying out their mission. Furthermore, 93 per cent saw disseminating information about the United Nations as one of their primary roles as NGO representatives.

IX. Conclusions

66. Responding to the ever changing demands of the time and of the changing priorities, the Department of Public Information has constantly updated its work methods, activities and products. By clearly enunciating its role and coherently elaborating its functions, it is now able to plan and use its resources more effectively. Several factors have helped the Department in this process: a new strategic approach to communications that emphasizes long-term goals; increased cooperation with United Nations system partners; greater use of the new information and communications technologies and their integration at all levels of work; and expansion of its partnership with civil society. Today, the Department is more aware than ever before of its strengths and weaknesses, thanks in large part to its emphasis on a culture of evaluation. The Department of Public Information is the first department in the Secretariat to institute an Annual Programme Impact Review as a self-evaluation tool for its managers, making it an integral part of its work programme. Practically all Department of Public Information programme managers have now been trained in self-evaluation, a pioneering development for the Secretariat. In short, with its activities aligned with the overall priorities of the Organization, the Department is now better equipped to achieve its mandate. Cumulatively, this has led to the overall enhancement of the public information capacity of the Organization.

67. Past performance is assuredly no guarantee of future results, however. The Department's work will have to remain aligned not only with the evolving mandates of the Organization, but must also be constantly aware of the expectations they generate. Its success will always be measured by how convincingly it tells the United Nations story and how well it connects with its constituents: Member States, media, civil society and the public at large. To ensure that this connection is maintained and enhanced, the Department will continue to apply clearly measurable indicators of achievement to evaluate its future performance. By reaffirming their support for the work of the Department and the strategic directions it has taken, Member States can play a key role in making the Department of Public Information the true public voice of the United Nations.

United Nations A/61/217

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 August 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Item 72 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the International Criminal Court

Report of the International Criminal Court

Note by the Secretary-General

The annual report of the International Criminal Court is submitted herewith to the General Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of article 6 of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court (see A/58/874, annex) and paragraph 12 of Assembly resolution 60/29.

* A/61/150.

06-45537 (E) 220806

Report of the International Criminal Court for 2005-2006

Summary

The present report, covering the period from 1 August 2005 to 1 August 2006, is the second annual report of the International Criminal Court (hereafter "the Court") submitted to the United Nations. It covers the main developments in the Court's activities and other developments of relevance to the relationship between the Court and the United Nations.

The Court unsealed its first arrest warrants in October 2005. The first person arrested pursuant to a warrant issued by the Court was surrendered to the Court's custody in March 2006. Pre-trial and appeals proceedings were held, in anticipation of trials beginning in late 2006 or early 2007.

The Court continued its investigations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Darfur, the Sudan. Through outreach and public information activities, the Court engaged in dialogue with local populations and the public about its role, proceedings and investigations.

In all phases of its activities, the Court relied on cooperation from States, the United Nations, other international organizations and civil society. The Court does not have its own police force to carry out its decisions or orders. It needs the assistance of others in, inter alia, gathering evidence, providing logistical support to operations in the field, relocating witnesses, arresting and surrendering persons and enforcing the sentences of the convicted.

The Court and the United Nations continued to build on the Relationship Agreement,[1] developing substantially the mutual cooperation between the two independent institutions. The Court also engaged with States, other international organizations, including regional organizations, and civil society to facilitate necessary cooperation. Nonetheless, substantial challenges to obtaining sufficient support remain. Over one year has passed since the Court issued its first warrants of arrest and the five subjects of the warrants remain at large. If trials are to be held, States and international organizations must assist the Court by arresting and surrendering those persons and others for whom warrants are issued in the future.

The Court today is becoming the centrepiece of an emerging system of international criminal justice involving national, international and hybrid tribunals, as well as such international organizations as the United Nations. The interrelationships between those different institutions has continued to develop, as evidenced by the Court's assistance to the Special Court for Sierra Leone and other efforts directed towards international justice.

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
	Summary		2
I.	Introduction	1	4
II.	Proceedings	2–15	4
	A. First warrants of arrest	3–6	4
	B. First proceedings against an accused	7–9	5
	C. Appeals proceedings	10–11	5
	D. Assisting victims and counsel	12–15	5
III.	Investigations	16–32	6
	A. Democratic Republic of the Congo	18–20	6
	B. Uganda	21–22	7
	C. Darfur, the Sudan	23–29	7
	D. Analysis of other potential situations	30–32	8
IV.	Outreach	33–38	9
V.	Institutional developments	39–45	10
	A. Judiciary	39–42	10
	B. Strategic planning	43–45	11
VI.	Developing international cooperation	46–56	11
	A. Cooperation with the United Nations	47–51	11
	B. Cooperation with other actors	52–56	12
VII.	Emerging system of international criminal justice	57–62	13
	A. Assistance to the Special Court for Sierra Leone	59–60	13
	B. International Independent Investigation Commission	61–62	14
VIII.	Conclusion	63–64	14

I. Introduction

1. During the year since the first report of the International Criminal Court ("the Court") submitted to the United Nations (A/60/177), the Court continued to be seized by situations in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic, all of which had been referred to the Court by the States parties themselves, and the situation in Darfur, the Sudan, which had been referred to the Court by the Security Council. Pending commencement of trials, each situation was assigned to a Pre-Trial Chamber comprised of three judges. During this period, the situations in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Darfur, the Sudan, were under investigation by the Prosecutor. No investigation was opened into the situation in the Central African Republic.

II. Proceedings

2. During the past year, judicial proceedings were conducted before the Court's Pre-Trial and Appeals Chambers. Significant developments included the unsealing of the first warrants of arrests and the first proceedings against an accused. In addition, the Chambers issued a wide range of decisions in relation to such matters as the rights of victims to participate in pre-trial proceedings, the system of pre-trial disclosure and the ordering of measures pursuant to unique investigative opportunities. All public decisions of the Court are published on its website (http://www.icc-cpi.int). The Court also continued to develop its infrastructure to ensure effective participation of victims and protection of the rights of the defence.

A. First warrants of arrest

3. On 14 October 2005, Pre-Trial Chamber II, the Chamber of the Court assigned responsibility for pre-trial matters in the situation in Uganda, unsealed the Court's first warrants of arrest. Warrants were issued for the following five members of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA): Joseph Kony, Vincent Otti, Okot Odhiambo, Dominic Ongwen and Raska Lukwiya. They are charged with crimes against humanity and war crimes, including murder, sexual enslavement, intentionally attacking civilians, pillaging, rape, cruel treatment of civilians and the forced enlistment of child soldiers.

4. The warrants were issued on 8 July 2005 but were kept under seal until October owing to concerns about the security of victims and witnesses. The warrants were only made public once Pre-Trial Chamber II was satisfied that adequate measures were in place to ensure the security of victims and witnesses.

5. None of the five members of LRA have been arrested or surrendered to the Court. The Court does not have its own police to arrest them. It relies on the cooperation of States and international organizations to do so. Following the arrest warrants, Pre-Trial Chamber II issued requests for arrest and surrender to the Governments of Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan, in whose territories LRA are believed to be located. On 1 June 2006, at the request of the Court's Prosecutor, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) issued "red notices" alerting its member countries of the arrest warrants.

6. Pre-Trial Chamber I, which has responsibility for pre-trial matters in the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, issued a warrant of arrest on 10 February 2006 (unsealed on 17 March 2006) against Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, alleged founder and leader of the Union des patriotes congolais and commander-in-chief of the Forces patriotiques pour la libération du Congo. He is alleged to have been involved in the commission of war crimes, namely, enlisting and conscripting children under the age of 15 and using them to participate actively in hostilities.

B. First proceedings against an accused

7. On 17 March 2006, Mr. Lubanga was arrested and surrendered to the Court. The arrest and surrender of Mr. Lubanga was made possible by cooperation received from States and international organizations. Notably, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo facilitated Mr. Lubanga's transfer by lifting the travel ban imposed against him for the purpose of his surrender to the Court.

8. On 20 March 2006, Pre-Trial Chamber I held a hearing to ensure that Mr. Lubanga was informed of the charges against him and of his rights under the Rome Statute. Since then, numerous hearings have been held in relation to a host of pre-trial issues litigated for the first time before the Court.

9. A hearing to confirm the charges against Mr. Lubanga is scheduled for the second half of 2006. If the charges are confirmed, the trial will commence thereafter. During and after the trial, the Court will continue to rely on the cooperation of States and others for such assistance as the provision of evidence to the Court, the protection and relocation of witnesses and the enforcement of the sentence in the event of a conviction.

C. Appeals proceedings

10. During the reporting period, the Appeals Chamber of the Court was seized with the first interlocutory appeals. Issues on appeal included the scope of possible appellate review and decisions of the Pre-Trial Chamber on jurisdiction and admissibility.

11. On 13 July 2006, the Appeals Chamber issued its first decision on the merits, dismissing the Prosecutor application for extraordinary review of a decision by Pre-Trial Chamber I. In the underlying decision, Pre-Trial Chamber I had denied the Prosecutor leave to appeal its decision granting the applications of six victims to participate in proceedings.

D. Assisting victims and counsel

12. Over the past year, the Court continued its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the Rome Statute with respect to the rights of victims and the defence.

13. Under the Rome Statute, victims are provided the opportunity to participate in proceedings, either directly or through legal representatives, and to obtain

reparations. In September 2005, the Court established the Office of Public Counsel for Victims to provide support and assistance to victims and their legal representatives in participating in proceedings and obtaining reparations.

14. In order to carry out the aims of the Rome Statute, it is vital that the rights of the defence are adequately ensured. In September 2005, the Court established the Office of Public Counsel for the Defence to provide necessary assistance to defence teams in accordance with the Rome Statute and Rules of Procedure and Evidence. The Court also established a list of counsel in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. To date the list of counsel includes 152 persons. On 31 May and 1 June 2006, 100 counsel from the list participated in consultations with the Court through a seminar for counsel held in The Hague.

15. The Court appointed counsel from the list of counsel to represent the interests of the defence in forensic examinations and proceedings related to victims participation, assigned counsel to represent the first accused, Mr. Lubanga, prior to his selection of counsel, and provided him with counsel of his choice from the list.

III. Investigations

16. The Court's investigations are carried out by the Office of the Prosecutor. During the reporting period, the Office investigated the situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, both of which had been referred to the Court by the States themselves, pursuant to article 14 of the Rome Statute, and the situation in Darfur, which had been referred to the Court by the Security Council (Security Council resolution 1593 (2005)), pursuant to article 13 (b) of the Statute.

17. The Court's Registry provided security, administrative and logistical support to the investigations, including through field offices in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Chad (in relation to the investigation in Darfur). Together, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry developed measures to ensure the safety of victims, witnesses and others at risk owing to the Court's investigations in all three situations. In carrying out its activities in the field, the Court also relied on cooperation and assistance from agencies of the United Nations system and from United Nations missions.

A. Democratic Republic of the Congo

18. During the reporting period, the Office of the Prosecutor conducted 45 investigation missions to six countries for the purpose of gathering evidence and witness testimony in relation to the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As indicated above, the investigation led, inter alia, to the issuance of an arrest warrant and the subsequent arrest and surrender of Mr. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo.

19. The Office of the Prosecutor opened a second case in the continuing investigation into the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Office also continued to analyse the possibility of opening a third case in the situation.

20. In carrying out and supporting the investigation, the Court relied on the essential cooperation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), as well as other relevant actors. For example, MONUC assisted the Court by providing transport on MONUC planes and temporary accommodation in its camps. The Court endeavours to carry out its functions autonomously but in some areas it cannot operate without support.

B. Uganda

21. The Office of the Prosecutor continued to conduct missions to the field to carry out investigative work in Uganda and to assess the security of witnesses. The Office conducted 16 missions for the purpose of interviewing witnesses and others and collected documents and materials in preparation for the confirmation of the charges in the five outstanding arrest warrants.

22. The Office also conducted numerous missions to Uganda, the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in relation to the Uganda investigation and had contact with other authorities to build support for arrest efforts. Cooperation with the Government of Uganda has been critical for the success of the Office's investigative efforts. On 2 October 2005, the Office of the Prosecutor concluded a cooperation agreement with the Sudan in relation to the investigation in Uganda.

C. Darfur, the Sudan

23. The investigation into the Darfur situation was opened on 6 June 2005, following the preliminary examination of the situation by the Office of the Prosecutor. The ongoing conflict has prevented the Office from investigating on the ground in Darfur, as the necessary security conditions are not present to ensure the protection of victims, witnesses or staff members. The Office has therefore focused its investigative activities outside Darfur.

24. Nearly a dozen lengthy missions have been conducted to collect evidence and testimony in neighbouring Chad, where many victims and witnesses have fled. A general framework for cooperation was concluded between the Government of Chad and the Court on 18 August 2005 by way of an exchange of letters. Security in Chad has deteriorated significantly during the past year. As a result, the Court's field presence was temporarily closed but has since reopened and resumed operations.

25. During the reporting period, the Office of the Prosecutor conducted more than 50 missions to 15 countries, screened close to 500 potential witnesses, took 61 formal witness statements and collected and reviewed more than 8,800 documents. The Office consulted with organizations and individuals and retained expert consultants to build in-house knowledge, with respect to such areas of particular importance as the incidence of sexual violence and the assessment of mortality rates.

26. The Office of the Prosecutor also conducted three missions to Khartoum. The first, in November 2005, was preparatory in nature. The second, in February 2006, focused entirely on the issue of admissibility of potential cases and had as its objective the assessment of national proceedings. The Office met with judges, prosecutors and representatives of the police and other Government departments. During the mission the Office gathered significant amounts of information relevant

to whether the Government of the Sudan had dealt with, or was dealing with, the cases that the Office was likely to select for prosecution. The third mission, in June 2006, dealt with matters relating to the investigation as such. The Office of the Prosecutor met with military officers to supplement a written report provided by the Government of the Sudan at the start of May 2006. The report provides information from the Government's perspective on the various phases of the conflict, matters relating to the military and security structures operating in Darfur, the activities of other parties to the conflict and the legal system governing the conduct of military operations.

27. The Office of the Prosecutor concluded eight arrangements with international organizations and other bodies for the provision of cooperation in relation to the Darfur investigation and issued dozens of requests for assistance to States.

28. The Prosecutor regularly briefed the Security Council on his investigation into the situation in Darfur, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1593 (2005). On 13 December 2005, the Prosecutor submitted his second report to the Security Council. In that report the Prosecutor updated the Council on the status of the investigation, including the selection of a number of alleged criminal incidents for full investigation. The Prosecutor also stated that the list of 51 names prepared by the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur represented the conclusions of the Commission and was not binding on him. Rather, it would be used in a confidential manner for advisory purposes only.

29. The Prosecutor submitted his third report to the Security Council, on 14 June 2006. In that report the Prosecutor stated that, given the scale of the alleged crimes in Darfur and the complexities associated with the identification of the individuals bearing the greatest responsibility for the crimes, the Office anticipated the investigation and prosecution of a sequence of cases, rather than a single case dealing with the situation in Darfur as a whole. The Prosecutor also highlighted that the full cooperation of the Government of the Sudan and other parties to the conflict was vital and that the cooperation of organizations having a significant presence on the ground would continue to be essential.

D. Analysis of other potential situations

30. In addition to the three ongoing investigations, the Office of the Prosecutor conducted a series of intensive analyses in order to determine whether to open an investigation into seven other situations. Two of those situations were dismissed (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Iraq) and five remain under analysis. Only situations under analysis, which have been made public by those who sent the communications or referrals, are made public by the Court.

31. With regard to the situation in Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), the Prosecutor concluded that the available information did not provide a reasonable basis for believing that crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court had occurred. In relation to the situation in Iraq, where the Court has jurisdiction only with respect to the nationals of States parties to the Rome Statute, the Prosecutor concluded that the available information supported a reasonable basis for believing that crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court had occurred, comprising a limited number of instances of wilful killing and/or inhuman treatment under article 8 of the Statute (war crimes). However, the situation did not appear to meet the required gravity threshold

of the Statute. The Prosecutor also noted that, although it was not necessary to consider further the admissibility of cases in the light of the conclusion on gravity, national proceedings had been initiated with respect to each of the relevant incidents. Under the "principle of complementarity", on which the Court is founded and which recognizes that it is the primary responsibility of States to exercise their criminal jurisdiction, a case is inadmissible if a national jurisdiction genuinely carries out an investigation or proceedings. The Prosecutor's conclusions of those two analyses are available on the Court's website.

32. The five situations that currently remain under analysis include situations in the Central African Republic, following the referral by that State party, and in Côte d'Ivoire, a non-State party which has filed a declaration accepting the jurisdiction of the Court. In those situations, the Office of the Prosecutor continued to assess whether crimes had been committed, to analyse the jurisdiction and admissibility of possible cases and to assess whether the opening of an investigation would be in the interests of justice.

IV. Outreach

33. The Court continued to work towards developing understanding and awareness of its role and activities in relation to both proceedings and investigations. It directed its efforts primarily towards those communities most affected by the situations under investigation. Through its outreach programme, the Court engaged in two-way communications with local communities in order to provide accurate information regarding its work and to make accessible its judicial proceedings.

34. The development and implementation of its outreach activities depends on the context in which the Court is operating, the phase of judicial activities and the information needs of specific target groups. The Court therefore developed situation-specific outreach strategies for Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Darfur.

35. Over the past year, the Court increased its outreach activities in northern Uganda. In 2005, the Prosecutor and the Registrar held meetings with local Acholi, Madi, Langi and Teso leaders and their representatives. In 2006, the Court held informative meetings with over 120 local non-governmental organizations, 150 cultural leaders, 60 local government representatives and 50 religious leaders from across northern Uganda, as well as with journalists and such legal associations as the Uganda Human Rights Commission. The Court also disseminated information broadly through local radio programmes, newspapers and other printed materials.

36. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Court organized workshops and seminars for such groups as judicial authorities, the legal community, non-governmental organizations and journalists. The Court used radio and television to provide general information about the Court, as well as information about the case against Thomas Lubanga Dyilo. Through partnerships with local radio stations in remote areas, the Court increased its ability to reach out to local populations affected by the situation under investigation.

37. In both Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Court conducted specific outreach activities in relation to the participation of and reparations to victims under the Rome Statute. The Court conducted workshops,

seminars, informational meetings and training modules on the rights of victims. The Court also disseminated informational materials and standard application forms for participation in proceedings or reparations. The Court has developed a network of reliable intermediaries, as well as cooperation with the United Nations, in order to reach out to victims and to inform them of their rights.

38. All of the Court's outreach activities are carried out within the context of an integrated strategy on external communications, public information and outreach, adopted by the Court in 2005. In the fall of 2006, the Court will submit a strategy specifically on outreach to the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute. In developing that outreach strategy, the Court has sought out and incorporated information provided by other international tribunals, in particular the Special Court for Sierra Leone, given that institution's well-regarded outreach programme.

V. Institutional developments

A. Judiciary

39. The terms of six judges concluded during the reporting period. On 26 January 2006, the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute met at United Nations Headquarters, re-electing Judges Akua Kuenyehia, Sang-Hyun Song, Hans-Peter Kaul, Erkki Kourula and Anita Ušacka, and electing Ekaterina Trendafilova as a judge, all to serve nine-year, non-renewable terms. The judges began their terms of office on 11 March 2006.

40. On 11 March 2006, the judges of the Court met in plenary session to assign judges to the three judicial divisions and to elect the Presidency of the Court. The judges are assigned as follows:

(a) Appeals Division: Erkki Kourula, President of the Division; Philippe Kirsch; Georghios Pikis; Navanethem Pillay; and Sang-Hyun Song;

(b) Trial Division: René Blattmann; Karl T. Hudson-Phillips; Elizabeth Odio Benito; Maureen Harding Clark; Anita Ušacka; and Adrian Fulford;

(c) Pre-Trial Division: Hans-Peter Kaul, President of the Division; Akua Kuenyehia; Claude Jorda; Mauro Politi; Fatoumata Dembele Diarra; Sylvia Steiner; and Ekaterina Trendafilova.

41. On 11 March 2006, the judges re-elected Judge Kirsch as President and Judge Kuenyehia as First Vice-President and elected Judge Blattmann as Second Vice-President, all to three-year terms.

42. Following their election, the members of the Presidency reconstituted Pre-Trial Chambers. The current Pre-Trial Chambers are as follows:

(a) Pre-Trial Chamber I: Judges Jorda (presiding), Kuenyehia and Steiner;

(b) Pre-Trial Chamber II: Judges Politi (presiding), Diarra and Trendafilova; and

(c) Pre-Trial Chamber III: Judges Steiner (presiding), Kaul and Trendafilova.

B. Strategic planning

43. In early 2006, the Court adopted the first version of its strategic plan. The plan provides a common framework for the Court's activities over the next 10 years, with emphasis on objectives for the immediate three years. The plan sets out how the Court will go about realizing the aims of the Rome Statute. Through the plan, the Court aims to set a clear direction for its future, ensure continuous coordination of its activities, demonstrate its transparency and further strengthen its relationships with States parties and other actors.

44. As stated in the strategic plan, the mission of the Court, as an independent judicial institution in the emerging international justice system, is to:

(a) Fairly, effectively and impartially investigate, prosecute and conduct trials of the most serious crimes;

(b) Act transparently and efficiently; and

(c) Contribute to long-lasting respect for, and the enforcement of, international criminal justice, to the prevention of crime and to the fight against impunity.

45. The strategic plan identifies three strategic goals for fulfilling the mission: to ensure the quality of justice; to become a well-recognized and adequately supported institution; and to be a model for public administration. Thirty strategic objectives provide detailed elements of the steps to reach those goals. The Court will provide a report on the strategic plan to the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute in advance of its annual meeting in 2006.

VI. Developing international cooperation

46. Over the past year, the Court substantially developed its framework for institutional cooperation with the United Nations, as well as with States, regional organizations and other actors.

A. Cooperation with the United Nations

47. The Court and the United Nations concluded several supplementary arrangements within the framework provided by the Relationship Agreement between the two institutions. On 8 November 2005, the Court concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Memorandum of Understanding sets out a range of assistance measures for MONUC to provide to the Court, including logistical support and judicial assistance. During the past year, the Office of the Prosecutor concluded 10 new arrangements with programmes, funds and offices of the United Nations system, pursuant to article 18 of the Relationship Agreement.

48. In addition to the operational cooperation between the Court and the United Nations in the field, described in sections II and III above, the Court and the United Nations continued to discuss cooperation issues at their respective headquarters. As described in paragraphs 28 and 29 above, the Prosecutor regularly briefed the Security Council on his investigation into the situation in Darfur. On 8 November

2005, Judge Philippe Kirsch, President of the Court, submitted the first annual report (A/60/177) of the Court to the General Assembly (for the remarks of the President of the International Criminal Court, see A/60/PV.46). A series of meetings between the United Nations and Court officials was held on 23 and 24 January 2006, following previous meetings held in New York in July 2005.

49. On 12 April 2006, the members of the Presidency, Judges Philippe Kirsch, Akua Kuenyehia and René Blattmann, and Fatou Bensouda, Deputy Prosecutor, received Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the seat of the Court.

50. The Court took steps to further facilitate information-sharing and operational cooperation with the United Nations by establishing a fixed presence in New York. In December 2005, the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute approved the establishment in New York of a liaison office of the International Criminal Court. The office will provide support to the Court in relation to operational cooperation with the United Nations at its Headquarters. The Court has begun to set up the office and intends to have it operational in 2006.

51. Pursuant to article 10 of the Relationship Agreement, in January 2006, the United Nations also provided facilities and services for the resumed fourth session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, which was held at United Nations Headquarters. At its fourth session, the Assembly of States Parties decided that in 2007 it would hold its resumed fifth session and its sixth session in New York.[2]

B. Cooperation with other actors

52. With regard to cooperation from States parties, part 9 of the Rome Statute provides the legal framework for the rendering of various types of judicial assistance, including the arrest and surrender of persons and the provision of other forms of cooperation. In order to enhance such cooperation, the Office of the Prosecutor has entered into a limited number of State-specific agreements. Examples include arrangements of modalities for the conduct of operations in territories where the Office is carrying out its investigative activities, as well as agreements in relation to the provision of classified information, pursuant to article 54 (3) (e) of the Statute. During the past year, the Office concluded three agreements with States parties to facilitate its investigations.

53. On 27 October 2005, the Court concluded an agreement with Austria establishing a framework for acceptance of persons sentenced by the Court. Under the Rome Statute, sentences of the Court are enforced in States willing to accept sentenced persons. Cooperation agreements facilitate those processes.

54. On 10 April 2006, the Court concluded a cooperation agreement with the European Union. The agreement covers such issues as the sharing of classified information, the testimony of European Union personnel, the waiver of privileges and immunities, cooperation with the Prosecutor, the provision of facilities and services, including support in the field, attendance at European Union meetings and cooperation on training for judges, prosecutors, officials and counsel.

55. During the past year, the Court also conducted negotiations on agreements with the African Union and with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization. The Court anticipates concluding both agreements in the near future.

56. On 29 March 2006, the Court signed an agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) governing visits by ICRC to persons deprived of liberty pursuant to the jurisdiction of the Court. On 28 and 29 June 2006, ICRC made its first visit to the Court's Detention Centre in accordance with the agreement.

VII. Emerging system of international criminal justice

57. The Court and the United Nations are each part of an emerging system of international criminal justice. Within that system, the staff and officials of the different courts and tribunals regularly meet to share lessons from their experiences. The different courts and tribunals may also assist each other on practical issues regarding cooperation. For example, in 2006 the Court provided interpreters and specialized advice to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in the context of a hearing conducted by the Tribunal in the Netherlands.

58. The Court and the United Nations have also cooperated indirectly on two efforts to promote international justice: the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the International Independent Investigative Commission.

A. Assistance to the Special Court for Sierra Leone

59. The Special Court for Sierra Leone was established by an agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. Its seat is in Freetown. Following the arrest of the former President of Liberia, Charles Taylor, the President of the Special Court indicated that it might not be possible for the Special Court to conduct Mr. Taylor's trial in Freetown, owing to security concerns. He therefore requested the assistance of the International Criminal Court to enable the Special Court to conduct the trial at the seat of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. The President of the International Criminal Court conveyed the request to the States parties to the Rome Statute, and it was accepted by them. On 13 April 2006, the two courts concluded a Memorandum of Understanding related to the trial of Mr. Taylor.

60. On 16 June 2006, the Security Council adopted resolution 1688 (2006) in relation to the trial being held in the Netherlands. On 19 June 2006, the President of the Special Court ordered that the trial be held in The Hague and that Mr. Taylor be transferred. The trial will be carried out by the judges and staff of the Special Court in accordance with the Special Court's Statute and Rules. The International Criminal Court is providing detention and courtroom services and facilities for the trial. All costs for the assistance of the International Criminal Court are to be paid by the Special Court in advance. In order for the trial to be held, the International Criminal Court will need to receive such funds from the Special Court.

B. International Independent Investigation Commission

61. On 21 December 2005, the Secretary-General wrote to the Prosecutor of the Court, expressing his intention to appoint Serge Brammertz, the Court's Deputy Prosecutor for Investigations, as Commissioner of the International Independent Investigation Commission and requesting the Prosecutor to release him for a period of six months to take up that important responsibility. On 22 December 2005, following consultation with States parties, the Prosecutor, in accordance with article 42 (2) of the Rome Statute, agreed to grant Mr. Brammertz a leave of absence for six months, until 15 July 2006. The decision was based on the conviction that it would be an important contribution of the Court towards efforts by other institutions to promote international justice.

62. On 2 June 2006, the Secretary-General requested that the Prosecutor grant Mr. Brammertz an additional leave of absence of approximately five months, until 31 December 2006, to continue his work with the International Independent Investigation Commission. The Prosecutor sought the advice of the States parties to the Rome Statute, noting that the extension of Mr. Brammertz's leave of absence would not compromise the effective functioning of the Office, but that as a matter of principle the States parties should agree with the decision. The States parties concurred with the request and the Prosecutor informed the Secretary-General that he had approved the extension of Mr. Brammertz's leave until 31 December 2006 to continue his work with the International Independent Investigation Commission. On 19 July 2006, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to extend the mandate of Mr. Brammertz until 31 December 2006.

VIII. Conclusion

63. The Court has achieved considerable progress in its investigations and judicial proceedings over the past year. Effective cooperation and assistance provided by States, the United Nations and other international organizations and civil society have been essential in those activities.

64. Strong support and cooperation are critical to the success of the Court's efforts, in particular in relation to the arrest and surrender of accused persons, the provision of evidence, the relocation of witnesses and the enforcement of sentences. Over one year has passed since the Court issued its first arrest warrants and all five subjects of the warrants remain at large. The Court does not have its own police force to arrest those persons. If trials are to be held, States and international organizations must assist the Court by arresting and surrendering those persons and others for whom warrants are issued in the future.

Notes

[1] *Official Journal of the International Criminal Court*, Number ICC-ASP/3/Res.1, annex; United Nations document A/58/874, annex. Approved by the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute on 7 September 2004 and by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/318 of 13 September 2004. The Relationship Agreement and all other documents published in the Official Journal of the Court are available on the Court's website (http://www.icc-cpi.int).

[2] *Official Records of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, fourth session, The Hague, 28 November-3 December 2005* (ICC-ASP/4/32), part III, operative paragraph 53 of resolution ICC-ASP/4/Res.4.

United Nations A/61/218

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 August 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Item 47 of the provisional agenda*
2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits the report entitled "2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa" prepared by the World Health Organization in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/221.

* A/61/150.

06-45511 (E) 240806

Summary

The present report highlights the activities undertaken and progress made since the last report (A/60/208) in meeting the 2010 malaria goals, in the context of General Assembly resolution 60/225 and the Abuja Declaration on Roll Back Malaria in Africa (2000). The report provides an evaluation of the Roll Back Malaria Programme for the period 2000–2005 and a vision for malaria control from 2006 onwards. It reviews, inter alia, developments in case management and prevention, and prospects for the elimination of malaria, including issues related to research and development and resource mobilization. In addition, the report addresses the problems associated with malaria in pregnant women and the special challenges of malaria epidemics in complex emergencies. It also provides some conclusions and recommendations for the consideration of the General Assembly.

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I	Introduction and background	1–2	4
II	Evaluation of Roll Back Malaria 2000–2005	3–12	5
III	Malaria control: 2006 onwards	13–16	7
IV	Case management	17–22	9
V	Malaria in pregnant women	23–25	10
VI	Prevention of malaria	26–32	11
VII	Surveillance monitoring and evaluation	33–35	13
VIII	Malaria epidemics and complex emergencies	36–37	14
IX	Malaria elimination	38–39	14
X	Research and development	40–43	15
XI	Funding and resource mobilization	44–50	16
XII	Conclusions and recommendations	51–53	18

I. Introduction and background

1. Malaria is largely a killer of children and poor people. It continues to threaten at least 3 billion people in 107 countries and territories. While most of the burden is on Africa, malaria is a global problem, continuing to hinder social and economic development in Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, Europe and the Pacific. Each year, more than 500 million people suffer from acute malaria, resulting in more than 1 million deaths — at least 86 per cent of which occur in sub-Saharan Africa. An estimated 3,000 children and infants die from malaria every day. Each year, approximately 50 million women living in malaria-endemic countries throughout the world become pregnant, of whom over half live in tropical areas of Africa with intense transmission of Plasmodium falciparum. Although malaria in pregnancy is predominantly asymptomatic in those regions, it is a major cause of severe maternal anaemia and is also responsible for approximately one third of preventable low birth weight babies. Consequently, it contributes to the deaths of an estimated 10,000 pregnant women and up to 200,000 infants each year in Africa alone. In areas of low or seasonal transmission, pregnant women are at increased risk of dying from the complications of severe malaria and of experiencing spontaneous abortion, premature delivery or stillbirth. Outside Africa, all age groups are at risk of malaria, but it is mostly concentrated in poor, "marginalized" populations, such as refugees and internally displaced persons. Malaria can also strike the more than 125 million non-immune travellers who visit malaria-endemic countries annually. Every year there are between 10,000 and 30,000 cases among travellers, which sometimes result in fatality.

2. Malaria has significant effects on long-term economic growth and development. It has been shown that countries with a high burden of Plasmodium falciparum malaria in 1965 had annual economic growth rates that were 1.3 per cent lower than other countries during the period 1965-1990, even after controlling for other determinants of growth. Evidence shows that malaria keeps poor people poor, costing Africa US$ 12 billion per year in lost gross domestic product and consuming up to 25 per cent of household incomes and 40 per cent of government health spending. Malaria disproportionately affects poor people, with almost 60 per cent of malaria cases occurring in the poorest 20 per cent of the world's population. There are numerous channels through which the disease can contribute to lower economic growth and poverty, including private and non-private medical care costs, reduced productivity of malaria sufferers and caretakers and reduced size of the labour force relative to the entire population, by influencing fertility decisions and therefore the demographic structure of societies, by discouraging foreign direct investment, trade and tourism, and by inhibiting the movement of labour. Malaria has lifelong effects on cognitive development and education levels, owing to malaria-induced anaemia and impaired learning and attendance in schools. In view of the enormous burden malaria places on countries' economies, it is imperative that national poverty alleviation programmes explicitly target actions and resources towards malaria control.

II. Evaluation of Roll Back Malaria 2000-2005

3. The Roll Back Malaria Partnership, launched in 1998 by the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), includes malaria-endemic countries, their bilateral and multilateral development partners, the private sector, non-governmental and community-based organizations, foundations and research and academic institutions. All of those constituencies are represented on the Roll Back Malaria Partnership Board.

4. The Roll Back Malaria Partnership secretariat, hosted by WHO, is responsible for optimizing support for country-level efforts and ensuring that contributions from individual partners are coordinated and focused on the needs of countries. The main goal of the Partnership is to halve malaria mortality by 2010 and reduce it by 75 per cent by 2015. The Roll Back Malaria interim goals were to support the following Abuja targets: (a) at least 60 per cent of people suffering from malaria should be able to access and use correct, affordable and appropriate treatment within 24 hours of the onset of symptoms; (b) at least 60 per cent of people at risk of malaria, particularly pregnant women and children under five, should benefit from suitable personal and community protective measures, such as insecticide-treated nets; and (c) at least 60 per cent of all pregnant women who are at risk of malaria, especially those in their first pregnancies, should receive intermittent preventive treatment.

5. Since 1998, there has been a resurgence of international attention and support for malaria control, such that there exists a window of opportunity to achieve long overdue reductions in mortality and morbidity from the disease. Various new tools, including long-lasting insecticide-treated nets, rapid diagnostic tests, and highly effective artemisinin-combination therapies (ACTs), have become available to prevent, diagnose and treat malaria. Moreover, increases in bilateral funding were accompanied by the inception of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and announcements by the World Bank that it would provide large increases in funding for malaria. However, those opportunities have not been utilized fully, resulting in a mixed record on malaria control progress in countries over the last five years.

6. With respect to the Abuja targets for African countries, from 1999 to 2004, across national surveys from 35 African countries, the median proportion of children that were treated with an antimalarial drug was approximately 50 per cent. However, most of those treatments may have been ineffective, since 95 per cent were with chloroquine, against which Plasmodium falciparum is resistant, a significant proportion was not administered within 24 hours of the onset of fever and the dosage was not evaluated. Based on data collected in African countries since 2001, in six countries, insecticide-treated net coverage of children under 5 years of age reached between 34 per cent and 54 per cent. In 27 countries, such coverage of children under 5 years of age is below 30 per cent. In eight countries, between 36 and 45 per cent of pregnant women sleep under insecticide-treated nets and in 21 countries, insecticide-treated net coverage of pregnant women remains below 30 per cent. However, coverage with any nets (including untreated nets) is much higher. Coverage of households with indoor residual spraying in the African region increased from 2.7 million to 4 million from 1999 to 2003, and the intervention is now being implemented in 17 southern and East African countries. From those surveys, it seems that no countries have achieved the Abuja targets.

7. At the same time, overall progress towards the Abuja targets is not known with certainty, since monitoring was based on national surveys not matched to Roll Back Malaria indicators and its interim goals. Recently, notable progress in increasing effective coverage of specific interventions seems to have been achieved in some countries, i.e., insecticide-treated nets in, inter alia, Eritrea, the Niger, Togo, Zambia and Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania; indoor residual spraying in, inter alia, Botswana, South Africa and Swaziland; and treatment with ACTs in, inter alia, Burundi, Ethiopia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania. Progress in many of those countries is due in part to increased funds through the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and technical assistance from WHO.

8. The apparent significant gap between targets and achievements to date can be attributed to several key factors. First, lack of strong technical leadership from WHO resulted in a leadership "vacuum" which other Roll Back Malaria partners attempted to fill, leading to competition and often conflicting advice. The Partnership's "loose" governance structure introduced inefficiencies in decision-making and the contributions of various partners were not effectively coordinated. Secondly, largely as a consequence, incorrect technical policies were adopted in countries, or correct ones were adopted too slowly to save lives. For example, although the importance of switching to treatment of malaria with ACTs was known, WHO did not emphasize that effort clearly or strongly enough, and until recently funding agencies continued to support the purchase of ineffective anti-malarial drugs. Indoor residual spraying was neglected as a major means of malaria vector control, and no clear policy recommendations were issued until late on the use of intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy despite growing resistance of Plasmodium falciparum to sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine, the drug used for that intervention. Global debates continued unresolved as to the merits of free distribution versus social marketing of insecticide-treated nets, as precious time and lives were lost. Thirdly, while Roll Back Malaria partners agreed on targets, they were unable to reach consensus on clear strategies for how to achieve them. Fourthly, monitoring and evaluation was largely ineffective, leading to the inability to hold countries and partners accountable. In most countries, the coverage and impact of anti-malarial interventions have been monitored using mainly surveys which are costly and subject to a significant time lag.

9. Owing in part to such deficiencies, many of the funds that were pledged for malaria control have failed to become available or have been significantly delayed. The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria started disbursements of grants for malaria control only in early 2003. Malaria funding from the World Bank from 2000 to 2005 was much lower than promised and commitments have only recently been stepped up. The creation of the United States President's Malaria Initiative in 2005 raises hopes that much greater resources will be available for malaria over the next half decade. In terms of domestic funding, only Botswana has yet to meet the target, established by African leaders, to devote 15 per cent of government budgets to health.

10. A rapid increase in demand, together with inadequate attention to supply chain management, led to global shortages of key commodities, most notably single-source ACTs or limited-source long-lasting insecticide-treated nets. That problem has been particularly acute in relation to artemether-lumefantrine, manufactured as a single-source product by Novartis Pharma AG. Orders for artemether-lumefantrine

have increased rapidly since 2001, when WHO requested 220,000 treatment courses for the public sector. In 2004, a demand of 10 million treatment courses was forecasted, but the manufacturing company has been able to deliver less than half of such orders owing to insufficient supply of the key ingredient, artemether, from its Chinese suppliers. The reason for the shortage was an insufficient supply of artemisinin, the raw material extracted from the plant *Artemisia annua*, which is needed to manufacture artemether. Cultivation of the plant requires a minimum of six months. The extraction, processing and manufacturing of the final product require an additional three to five months. The recent surge in demand for artemisinin has created temporary pressure on availability in the market. The global shortage of artemether-lumefantrine lasted until the end of 2005. Since the last quarter of 2005, the manufacturing company has invested in expanding manufacturing facilities, sourcing artemisinin raw materials and increasing production capacity to meet the global demand.

11. While, initially, most artemisinins were produced in very few countries, notably Viet Nam and China, global production capacity has now expanded to a number of other countries. Both the United Nations pre-qualification programme and the WHO/UNICEF procurement procedures, which enable selection and procurement of quality ACTs for which no pre-qualified product is yet available, have made it possible to procure such quality therapies in sufficient amounts to meet global demand. Both systems are open to both innovator products and quality products and have contributed to increase price competition among manufacturers and suppliers of quality ACTs. A substantial decrease in price over the years has been achieved through the WHO/UNICEF joint tender procedures, increased international funding for ACTs and coordinated efforts to consolidate country forecast and demand. The production capacity of such therapies for 2006 by the six major pharmaceutical companies is estimated at 130 million treatment courses and exceeds the public sector demand for ACTs, which was estimated at 110 million treatment courses at the beginning of 2006. Demand for long-lasting insecticide-treated nets suddenly increased from 20 per cent of all bednets ordered by countries in 2004 to more than 80 per cent in a year's time, creating a shortage in production capacity. However, production capacity rapidly increased and is currently just over 5 million per month, up from approximately 1.6 million per month in February 2005, and is expected to rise to approximately 7 million per month by June 2007 and significantly more in December 2007.

12. All of the foregoing factors have resulted in the lack of cohesive, coordinated support to malaria-endemic countries. During the past five years, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership has not been successful in implementing the most appropriate policies and strategies in countries and the impact on the ground has been negligible in comparison to the investment.

III. Malaria control: 2006 onwards

13. Recognizing those critical flaws, WHO decided to re-strategize its malaria programme by establishing the Global Malaria Programme at the beginning of 2006 so as to be able to respond cohesively and strongly to the needs of malaria-endemic member States. The Programme encompasses staff at headquarters and at the regional and country levels. The revised strategic direction has a number of key components: (a) providing strong WHO technical leadership on malaria control

policies and strategies and support to countries, (b) expanding the focus to malaria-endemic countries worldwide, in addition to the African continent, (c) supporting malaria-endemic countries to apply the best available tools, including indoor residual spraying where indicated, free or highly subsidized distribution of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets to all at-risk groups and diagnosis of malaria cases and treatment with ACTs, and working closely with countries to ensure that interventions are tailored to their particular epidemiologic and socio-economic profile; (d) ensuring that malaria control efforts contribute to strengthening health systems and support integrated delivery of essential health services; (e) fostering a multisectoral approach, with strong health-sector leadership, to gather political support for long-term investments in the health sector and to link national health priorities with development agendas; (f) providing greater focus and rigour to the development and implementation of effective monitoring and evaluation tools to measure programme performance, effective coverage and impact; (g) supporting priority research to develop new methods and tools and to address implementation bottlenecks; and (h) pursuing well-coordinated partnership at the country level to ensure that support is harmonized and aligned with national strategies and plans.

14. To be feasible and sustainable, malaria control must be placed in the context of strengthening health systems. That is a particular focus for WHO. Effective delivery of anti-malarial interventions is hampered by insufficient supplies of essential drugs and preventive measures, inadequate human resources and poor health infrastructure. Strategies to train increased numbers of people, such as medical entomologists, public health specialists and programme managers, in needed specialties as well as incentives to forestall "brain drain" owing to migration to other countries, are urgently needed. In addition, malaria-endemic countries need support to develop (a) managerial capacity to oversee health-care personnel at the national and district levels and (b) efficient mechanisms for quality laboratory services to ensure reliable diagnosis and effective case management. That effort needs to be complemented by a system for the procurement and distribution of medicines, reagents, insecticides and other essential commodities.

15. Since its inception in February 2006, the Global Malaria Programme has already begun to demonstrate the success of that revitalized strategic direction. As a first step, broad stakeholder consensus has been reached on the three main interventions — diagnosis of malaria cases and treatment with effective medicines, distribution of insecticide-treated nets to achieve full coverage of populations at risk of malaria, and indoor residual spraying as a major means of malaria vector control to reduce transmission and eliminate malaria — through mechanisms such as the Strategic Technical Advisory Group to the Director-General. Those interventions have been shown to be cost-effective even in a very low-income country.[1] Moreover, preservation of the life-saving efficacy of ACTs has been vigorously promoted through a global artemisinin monotherapy ban.

16. The Roll Back Malaria Partnership itself has also initiated a "change process" to make the secretariat and Board more responsive to needs. That has included revising the targets upwards to 80 per cent coverage and looking for ways to make the Partnership more effective. WHO is working within the Roll Back Malaria "change process" and contributing to the Partnership by delivering more robust strategic and technical leadership on curative and preventive interventions, ensuring

[1] Bremen and others, *Conquering Malaria* (2nd edition, April 2006), chap. 21.

that the most appropriate policies are implemented at the country level and increasing the capacity of countries to achieve the World Health Assembly and Millennium Declaration targets for malaria by 2015. At the country level, WHO is successfully working with partners such as UNICEF to scale up distribution of insecticide-treated nets and is starting to work with the World Bank to ensure adoption of appropriate drug policies and increased access to artemisinin combination therapy worldwide.

IV. Case management

17. Malaria-endemic countries continue to shift their treatment policies for Plasmodium falciparum malaria away from monotherapies, which have lost their effectiveness owing to parasite resistance. Artemisinin-based combination therapies are generally considered the best current treatment for uncomplicated falciparum malaria. To date, 67 countries — 41 of them in Africa — have adopted such therapies as recommended by WHO, as their first or second-line treatment. WHO continues to assist countries in their transition to ACTs use through collaboration in the review of results of therapeutic efficacy studies of first-line malaria treatment, national consensus meetings to update the malaria treatment policy, development of national treatment guidelines, training of health workers, procurement and implementation of the new artemisinin-based combination therapies policy. In 2005, approximately 32 million ACTs treatment courses were procured globally, with 25,539,044 in the Africa region.

18. Thus far, 39 countries, 21 in Africa, are deploying ACTs. In February 2006, WHO launched its Guidelines for the Treatment of Malaria. The aim of the treatment guidelines is to provide clear and straightforward recommendations for the treatment of malaria, based on sound evidence that can be applied effectively in most settings. WHO is developing operational manuals to support implementation of the therapies and is also helping communities monitor coverage and measure the impact of those new treatments through the development of indicators and reporting forms at the facility and community levels. WHO is also developing new information, education and communication materials to support ACTs implementation.

19. Parasite resistance to medicines continues to undermine malaria control efforts. WHO has also called for continuous monitoring of the efficacy of recently implemented ACTs, and countries are being assisted in strengthening their drug resistance surveillance systems. In order to preserve the efficacy of artemisinins, as an essential component of life-saving ACTs, WHO has called for a ban on the use of oral artemisinin monotherapies, at various levels, including manufacturers, international drug suppliers, national health authorities and international aid and funding agencies involved in the funding of essential antimalarial medicines. WHO is updating guidelines on pharmacovigilance to ensure the monitoring of the safety profile of newly introduced medicines. A global report on the state of anti-malarial drug resistance was launched in September 2005.

20. Efficiency and quality of care is greatly improved by strengthening diagnostic services at all levels of care. WHO is therefore providing technical assistance to countries to procure, deploy and monitor the quality of rapid diagnostic tests for malaria and to improve the quality of malaria microscopy. Training manuals and

tools for malaria microscopy and guidelines on quality assurance of both microscopy and rapid diagnostic tests are also being prepared and will be deployed by the end of 2006.

21. In Africa, 22 countries have adopted Home-based Management of Malaria to improve access to effective treatment by vulnerable populations (especially children below five years of age) in countries that have low health facility coverage. Rectally administered artemisinins are being increasingly used at the peripheral levels of the health system as a pre-referral treatment for severe malaria. That intervention has the potential of saving children's lives by rapidly reducing high parasite densities until the child reaches a health institution where parenteral treatment can be provided.

22. The quality of products (medicines and diagnostics) and services is critical for good clinical outcomes and yet poses enormous challenges in countries. Counterfeit antimalarial medicines are being increasingly found in the markets of Asian and African countries. WHO, the Wellcome Trust and Interpol are collaborating in an attempt to curb counterfeits of artesunate tablets which are being found in south-east Asia by investigating their sources and alerting national drug regulatory authorities to detect them. The price of artemisinin-based combination treatments is much higher than previous monotherapies (chloroquine and SP), which make them unaffordable to many poor people. UNITAID, the international drug purchase facility launched by Brazil, Chile, France, and Norway which will be financed by an international tax on air travel, is moving ahead and will begin its first effective ACTs funding actions by October 2006. The objective of UNITAID is to serve as a reliable and sustainable source of financing to ensure access to affordable drugs for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

V. Malaria in pregnant women

23. WHO recommends intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy (IPTp), in addition to reducing malaria transmission by vector control interventions, for the prevention of malaria in pregnancy in areas of stable, moderate to high transmission, together with effective case management of malaria illness and anaemia. IPTp is not recommended for the prevention of malaria in pregnant women in areas of low, unstable transmission in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

24. IPTp with sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (IPTp-SP) has been adopted as policy in 33 of 35 (94 per cent) African countries with an appropriate malaria transmission pattern, of which 22 are at various stages of implementation. However, the current rapid increase in resistance of Plasmodium falciparum to SP and the lack of safety and efficacy data on alternative antimalarial drugs for prevention and treatment pose an enormous challenge to the successful control of malaria in pregnancy. WHO now recommends that countries with parasitological failure rates to SP in young children of more than 50 per cent should not start implementation of IPTp-SP, while those that are already implementing IPTp-SP should monitor programme effectiveness and markers of SP resistance. WHO is working with research partners to ensure that data on the safety and efficacy of alternatives to SP for both prevention and treatment are generated as a matter of urgency. Since the majority of African countries have now changed to ACTs for first or second-line treatment of malaria, there is an urgent need to obtain safety data on the inadvertent use of ACTs in the first trimester of

pregnancy. WHO is supporting the establishment of pregnancy registries to facilitate follow-up of women who were exposed to ACTs during this critical period.

25. Although the use of mosquito nets by pregnant women is generally low, recent efforts to deliver free or highly subsidized nets to pregnant women at the time of antenatal clinic attendance has increased coverage to over 50 per cent in Malawi, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania.

VI. Prevention of malaria

26. WHO is focusing on universal access to insecticide-treated nets (long-lasting insecticide-treated nets), in partnership with UNICEF. Both agencies continue to advocate for free or highly subsidized insecticide-treated net distributions on a regular basis or through campaigns to reach vulnerable populations. In particular, to help reduce child mortality in a sustainable way, the delivery of nets should be integrated with antenatal care, the expanded programme on immunization (routine and campaigns) and other child health activities to rapidly increase and sustain coverage. Throughout the 31 countries in the Africa region which reported in 2005, 18,166,488 free or highly subsidized insecticide-treated nets were distributed and 7,568,439 nets were retreated. At present, the only country which has almost achieved the Abuja target of 60 per cent coverage of children under 5 years of age with an insecticide-treated net is Eritrea. It is estimated that 685,000 nets were distributed throughout North Africa and the Middle East in 2005.

27. High coverage rates with a high degree of equity have been achieved in the following situations: free delivery to entire communities (Eritrea); free or highly subsidized delivery to pregnant women through antinatal care (Malawi, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania); free distribution to children under 5 years of age in combination with immunization campaigns (Zambia, Ghana, Togo and the Niger). On a more limited scale, high levels have also been achieved in combination with routine expanded programme on immunization and child health days, such as the UNICEF-supported Accelerated Child Survival and Development projects in West Africa. Unfortunately, in general, community-based projects have never been able to achieve high coverage levels in poor rural areas. While social marketing has sometimes been useful for creating demand, its cost-effectiveness has been questioned and it has not achieved high coverage among poor rural populations, especially when insecticide kits are needed to re-treat the nets.

28. The bottlenecks to scaling up insecticide-treated net coverage have been (a) the need for regular re-treatment, (b) availability, (c) affordability and (d) implementation. Long-lasting insecticide-treated nets have been developed by industry to solve the re-treatment issue. Sudden and high demand for such nets by countries supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other funding agencies created a bottleneck for supply in 2005 and early 2006. That has been mostly resolved through a sharp increase in production capacity of the existing manufacturers as well as the entry of several new producers from December 2006 to June 2007. It is now less expensive to reach high-level coverage through the use of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets than through the use of conventionally treated insecticide-treated nets, as the price of a long-lasting insecticide-treated net is now on average $5 and it can protect two people for 3 to 5 years. Long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (or insecticide-treated nets for that

matter) are, in general, still not affordable for most of the rural population in Africa and must be delivered free or highly subsidized in order to scale up coverage, for when nets are within reach — both physically and financially — there is a high demand. To date, 64 per cent of countries in the African region have waived taxes on insecticide-treated nets. Countries must be assisted to scale up the necessary planning, organizational and managerial capacity to plan large-scale distribution campaigns. That must also include an information/education component, as some populations are still reticent to sleeping under an insecticide-treated net or do not use it consistently.

29. The other vector control intervention with wide applicability is indoor residual spraying, the application of insecticides to the inner surfaces of dwellings with the aim of reducing the life-span of mosquitoes to such an extent that they cannot transmit malaria. Indoor residual spraying has been used systematically and on a large scale mainly in those countries which were involved in the global malaria eradication campaign in the 1950s and 1960s, i.e. those in Asia, North Africa, the Horn of Africa, southern Africa and the Americas. The selection of an insecticide for indoor residual spraying in a given area is based on insecticide resistance status of vectors, feasibility, costs, safety, type of surface to spray and local experience. Of the 12 insecticides currently recommended by WHO for indoor residual spraying, DDT has the longest residual action. It is also the cheapest insecticide per square metre sprayed, but because of its weight and bulk, it may be more expensive than some of the alternatives when transport is costly.

30. Trends in the application of indoor residual spraying vary from region to region. In Africa, where 9 countries (of 17 which apply indoor residual spraying) have provided data regularly to WHO in recent years, the total number of households protected by such spraying in those countries (Eritrea, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, the Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda and Zambia) increased from 1,897,000 in 2000 to 2,755,000 in 2003, while in Asia, in 4 countries (Iraq, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam) of 22 regular users, the number of households covered increased from 2,297,000 to 3,052,000 over the same period, and in the Americas, it decreased in 9 (of 21) countries that regularly apply indoor residual spraying (Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Argentina), from 411,000 to 229,000. India remains the country where most people are protected by indoor residual spraying, with 42 million people protected in 2004, mainly with DDT.

31. In June 2006, the WHO Regional Office for Africa arranged a consultation on the use of DDT for indoor residual spraying in Brazzaville. Among the main outcomes were (a) an acknowledgement that indoor residual spraying should be deployed within the context of an integrated vector management strategy. The synergistic combination of locally appropriate interventions would maximize programme impact on local disease burden, and (b) a call on countries to (i) ensure careful decision-making and flexibility in the selection of interventions and the allocation of resources to the various options, with the long-term view on feasibility and sustainability of full coverage; (ii) build/strengthen relevant capacities to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate appropriate malaria vector control interventions, including indoor residual spraying with DDT; (iii) establish systems for prospective monitoring of potential adverse effects of insecticides, particularly DDT; (iv) document and disseminate lessons learned in the use of DDT; and (v) follow

expiring WHO guidelines and recommendations on the use of DDT for indoor residual spraying.

35. WHO is finalizing an updated comprehensive manual and new monitoring systems on indoor residual spraying and will in the coming year greatly intensify its work to assist countries to make the best use of that intervention.

VII. Surveillance monitoring and evaluation

36. The vastly increased resources and efforts to scale-up anti-malarial interventions in populations at risk — particularly through the World Bank Booster Program, the implementation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria proposals for malaria and the Malaria Initiative — all call for rigorous monitoring and evaluation at the country level. Assessing the progress of malaria control efforts has been very difficult, in part because countries generally have no baseline against which to measure. Routine health reporting systems are not sufficiently representative, as large sectors of the populace (mostly the lower quintiles) do not have access to health services and information is not yet collected systematically in many countries. Given the complexity of malaria as a disease and multiple malaria control interventions, many of which are delivered outside the public health system, monitoring and evaluation solutions need to be flexible enough to reach the community and household levels. In addition, current methods focus mainly on assessing effective coverage and impact of interventions, without sufficient attention to the performance of programmes. Household surveys, such as Demographic and Health Surveys and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, are expensive, not timely and not suitable as a management tool by national programmes. All of those factors have led to ineffective programme assessments and failures to report effectively and in a timely manner on the progress made.

37. To address that situation, WHO is (a) making efforts to increase effective use of information gained through routine programme monitoring and evaluation to improve programmes and guide the allocation of programme resources and (b) providing the leadership and necessary guidelines, standardized tools and methodologies to develop specially designed, simple community and facility-based malaria surveys that can be done at lower cost and with less of a time delay than those that are available currently. Where possible, such special malaria surveys need to be coordinated with other surveys which are useful but insufficient to meet the monitoring and evaluation needs of malaria control. Initially, substantial financial resources will need to be invested in the design of those surveys, in the development of survey tools and subsequent piloting and implementation.

38. WHO is helping countries in the development and implementation of a country database with field-tested indicators. That database, which will include indicators on the epidemiological situation, malaria policy, strategies and programme performance, drug and insecticide resistance and resource flows, will bring together in a systematic way existing data and information related to malaria. WHO has committed itself to ensuring that that system is in place in all 107 malaria-endemic countries within the next two years.

VIII. Malaria epidemics and complex emergencies

36. The areas of the world whose populations are most affected by complex emergencies are often those with the greatest malaria burden. Consequently, malaria is a significant cause of death and illness in emergency situations. Over 30 per cent of global malaria mortality is estimated to occur in such countries. The circumstances of a complex emergency undermine any pre-existing malaria control measures and lead to the collapse of health services. Population movements and displacement, increased vulnerability owing to malnutrition and concurrent infections, poor or absent housing, environmental deterioration resulting in increased vector breeding, and poor knowledge among intervening health agencies all contribute to the increased malaria burden. As a result, people become more vulnerable to malaria attacks, severe malaria and death from malaria. Malaria control in emergencies requires specially adapted strategies. In December 2005, WHO published the inter-agency field handbook entitled "Malaria Control in Complex Emergencies". The handbook provides policymakers, planners, field programme managers and medical coordinators with up-to-date practical guidance on designing and implementing measures to reduce malaria morbidity and mortality, in particular during the acute phase of an emergency. WHO is continuing its practical field support to affected countries during acute crises, such as in the Somalia-affected areas and the Niger food crisis, and on an ongoing basis in the context of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria proposal development and implementation in countries in crisis. The Malaria in Emergencies Network, facilitated by WHO, became operational in April 2005 with teleconferences three times a month and an e-mail list to serve for the immediate sharing of vital information with a wide group of emergency partners.

37. It is difficult for countries to allocate resources for epidemics, especially when there are insufficient resources for the day-to-day health-care needs of malaria-affected populations. WHO has supported efforts to improve preparedness, early recognition and effective and timely response mechanisms, including deployment of malaria early warning systems. However, the best preparation for epidemics is to strengthen health information systems to report weekly on the disease in high-risk areas and seasons, and serve as sentinel sites for early detection. An estimated 144 million people in Africa currently live in areas at risk of epidemic malaria.

IX. Malaria elimination

38. Over the last decade, several malaria-endemic countries have so seriously pursued malaria control that elimination targets are being reached and local malaria transmission is being interrupted nationwide. In 2003, the United Arab Emirates was the first country since the 1950s to officially request WHO to certify their malaria-free status. A WHO assessment for possible certification took place in March 2006. Similar requests from another 10 to 15 countries may be expected up until 2015, as certification of malaria elimination can affect a country's international political and socio-economic image, and its attractiveness for international investment and tourism. In light of these developments, WHO has decided to put a renewed focus on malaria elimination, including the development of guidelines for national malaria elimination programmes, provision of technical and operational support to countries

in the near-elimination phase and the establishment of mechanisms for official certification.

39. Already, the WHO European and eastern Mediterranean regions have adopted malaria elimination as part of their regional strategies, as a logical extension of the malaria control successes achieved by their member States. In the WHO European region, the 2005 regional declaration to move from malaria control to elimination was agreed to by all malaria-affected countries of the region. The WHO eastern Mediterranean region is supporting malaria elimination in countries where interruption of transmission is feasible and potentially sustainable, namely, Egypt, Morocco, Oman and Syria.

V. Research and development

40. In order to ensure the success of malaria control efforts over the long term, increased investments in malaria research and development, commensurate with the scale of the disease, are needed. In October 2005, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation awarded $258.3 million in grants for malaria research. The grants will bring worldwide malaria research spending to about $325 million per year. However, malaria research and development is still very under-funded relative to the burden of the disease. In 2004, the total investment in malaria research and development amounted to about $323 million, or approximately 0.3 per cent of total health-related research and development investment. Yet, malaria's impact on humanity is roughly 10 times that amount, accounting for 3.1 per cent of the global disease burden. The continual development of new anti-malarials will cost at least $30 million per year, possibly more after 2006, when more projects move into the expensive phase of clinical development.

41. New medicinal products are in the malaria research and development pipeline. Three new formulations of existing ACTs — two developed jointly by the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative with pharmaceutical companies (expected to be registered in 2006 and 2007 as fixed-dose combinations) and one developed by Novartis and the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) (expected to be registered in early 2007 as a paediatric formulation). Three new ACTs are in the development portfolio of MMV in late stages of development and the registration of those new medicines will start in 2007. Research carried out by the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases is providing important insights into improving delivery of treatment at the community level and is helping to formulate policies for the use of rapid diagnostic tests in high-transmission areas. Data on the safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness of intermittent preventive treatment in infants, the administration of anti-malarial drugs to asymptomatic infants at the time of routine vaccination during the first year of life, which has potential as a new malaria control strategy, will be reviewed by WHO later this year. Research on malaria vaccines advanced further during the course of this year, and the RTS,S vaccine, which is in the most advanced stages of clinical testing, is currently undergoing phase III clinical trials.

42. WHO and its partners have been collaborating closely to stimulate development of long-lasting treatment technologies for mosquito nets and its transfer for local production of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets in Africa. Development of more effective or user-friendly vector control tools, including

insecticide(s) alternative to DDT and pyrethroids, have recently received growing interest, especially through a major initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Also strengthened has been the monitoring of vector insecticide resistance by member States in the framework of WHO regional networks and the search for practical policies to address resistance issues.

43. Knowledge gaps and tools which are critical for malaria control today have to be addressed by the global research agenda. WHO will define the priorities for research for malaria control through a critical analysis of the evidence gaps and implementation challenges to ensure a highly relevant global portfolio of malaria research which will include defining the product profile, product development, operational and implementation research, and evidence for policies and strategies. As the scale-up of anti-malarial interventions in countries is gathering momentum, new bottlenecks and problems are being encountered. To ensure that those issues are rapidly and effectively addressed, WHO has expanded its realm of activities to include research and development, both identifying and defining the priority research agenda for malaria control, as well as coordinating and/or commissioning the necessary research. Seeking evidence on cost-effectiveness of current and new interventions for malaria will take priority in order to inform country-level decisions on which interventions to adopt and on the choice of the most optimal combination among multiple interventions.

XI. Funding and resource mobilization

44. WHO estimates that averting 100,000 child deaths from malaria per year would require approximately $100 million in resource costs to society. The global resources needed to control malaria effectively are estimated at approximately $3.4 billion per year (on average, $1.8 billion per year for Africa and $1.6 billion per year for other malaria-endemic regions of the world). Those estimates include the need for ACTs, which are more expensive than other anti-malaria drugs but required in countries with drug-resistant falciparum malaria; technical assistance; and related health-system development. Use of the informal private sector for malaria treatment, combined with weak health information systems, presents a challenge for accurate estimation of malaria spending.

45. At the country level, reliable information on the burden of the disease and the financing for malaria prevention and control is lacking, rendering difficult informed policymaking and effective resource allocation. In 2000, African Heads of State and Government pledged to reduce or waive taxes and tariffs for key malaria control commodities, such as anti-malarial drugs, bed nets and insecticides, but to date, only approximately 50 per cent of African countries have done so. In 2001, African leaders pledged to set a target to allocate 15 per cent of annual government budgets to the health sector. Despite modest progress being made by some member States, the proportion of the government budget devoted to health is still low in many countries (to date, only Botswana has allocated 15 per cent of its national budget to health).

46. International funding for malaria increased significantly over the period 1999-2004, with a dramatic rise in 2001, following the creation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. A 2005 survey of development agencies found a total of approximately $600 million available for malaria (but not disbursed)

in 2004 and noted that since 2001, sub-Saharan Africa has received more than 75 per cent of funds. The Global Fund reports that its total international disbursements for malaria in 2005 were approximately $308 million, bringing the total disbursed to date by the by the end of July 2006 to approximately $748 million. The Fund is active in 73 countries, financing a total of 99 malaria grants, all of which have had WHO input at all, or some, stage of the preparation and implementation process.

47. In addition, recent pledges from major donors have raised expectations that additional funds will be available for malaria. Total United States funding for malaria doubled from 2002 to 2005, from $118 million to $246 million. The Malaria Initiative has announced an increase in funding of malaria prevention and treatment by more than $1.2 billion over five years. In June 2006, four more countries (Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda and Senegal) were added to the Malaria Initiative as focus countries. At the 2005 Group of 8 summit, the leaders committed to scale-up action against malaria to reach 85 per cent of the vulnerable populations with key interventions and to contribute the additional $1.5 billion a year needed annually. To date, the best estimates still only show that half that goal has been reached.

48. In April 2005, the Global Strategy and Booster Program for Malaria Control was launched as the World Bank's plan for controlling the disease during the period 2005-2010. In September 2005, the Booster Program for Malaria Control in Africa, which is a plan for Bank support for malaria control efforts in Africa, was presented. Eight projects were approved by the World Bank in the last year, bringing total commitments for malaria control in Africa to $167 million. Projects are under preparation in seven additional countries, with approximately $260 million in the pipeline to support them. The World Bank is emphasizing donor harmonization in malaria control and is working to mobilize additional resources from partners. In this fiscal year, the Booster Program expects to fund $190 million in malaria control projects.

49. The special summit of African Union Heads of State and Government on HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, held in Abuja from 2 to 4 May 2006, revisited its objectives set in 2000 and called for accelerated action towards universal access to HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria services in Africa. The Heads of State resolved to intensify the fight against the three diseases, in particular to ensure that malaria prevention and control is accelerated with the goal of eliminating malaria using all effective strategies, such as indoor residual sprayings, insecticide-treated nets, ACTs and IPTp.

50. Despite those positive signs, resources available for malaria control still fall dramatically short of what is needed to combat the disease effectively. In addition, while malaria-specific funding has been increasing, it is also increasingly focusing on funding of commodities without concurrent increases in funding for technical assistance to build country capacity. The lack of funding and lack of capacity act on each other in a vicious circle: without capacity, countries cannot absorb the available funding and without funding, they cannot develop capacity. Various initiatives are therefore hindered by implementation challenges and are not achieving their expected impact, leaving malaria morbidity and mortality levels unacceptably high.

XII. Conclusions and recommendations

51. Effective coverage of interventions for malaria control is currently inadequate, owing mainly to funding shortages, lack of technical expertise and weak health systems. Inadequate planning and the use of substandard or ineffective products are aggravating the situation. Increased funding for national malaria control programmes needs to be complemented by funds for technical assistance, for without parallel increases in absorption capacity — through well-trained human resources, strong infrastructure and technical support, championing the most locally appropriate strategies and policies — malaria funding does not reach target populations or goals. Funding also needs to be predictable so that national malaria control programmes can plan long-term investments, such as procurement and human resources. The role of the private sector in health-care delivery must also be defined better and its collaboration with the public sector enhanced to ensure quality of care, access to health services, and financial protection. Leadership of malaria control efforts in countries must be undertaken by the Ministry of Health, linking horizontal and vertical approaches in a comprehensive health-sector strategy. While there has been some progress since 2000, there is still a critical shortage of complete and timely malaria data, without which it is impossible to monitor performance or measure impact.

52. On the basis of the findings of the present report and those of World Health Assembly resolution 58.2, it is recommended that the General Assembly call upon malaria-endemic countries to:

(a) Use, with support from WHO, the country database to systematically collect and analyse existing information on their malaria situation, including epidemiology, national policies and programme performance, coverage of interventions, financing and drug and insecticide resistance status;

(b) Apply WHO-recommended policies, strategies and tools to their specific contexts, and establish evidence-based national policies, operational plans and performance-based monitoring and evaluation towards scaling-up effective coverage of major preventive and curative interventions to populations at risk and assessing programme performance, intervention coverage and impact effectively and in a timely manner;

(c) Assess the capacity of their national malaria programmes, in particular their human resources, and ensure that skilled personnel are in place in adequate numbers at all levels of the health system to meet technical and operational needs as increased funding for malaria control programmes becomes available;

(d) Respond to the need for strengthening their health systems and ensure integrated delivery of health services at the district level, including attention to health personnel, supplies of drugs and preventive measures, and adequate health infrastructure;

(e) Encourage intersectoral collaboration, in particular at the highest levels of Government, i.e. the Ministries of Finance, Education, Agriculture, Economic Development and the Environment, and maintain and strengthen existing inter-country, multi-institutional and multisectoral malaria networks;

(f) Prohibit the marketing of oral artemisinin monotherapies and call upon funding agencies to do their part by ceasing to provide funding for procurement of oral artemisinin monotherapies or other medicines, including pre-qualified antiretroviral medicines, from manufacturers who continue marketing artemisinin monotherapy products;

(g) Waive taxes and tariffs for nets, drugs and other products needed for malaria control, both to reduce the price of those commodities to consumers and to stimulate free trade in those products;

(h) Strengthen, with support from WHO, drug resistance surveillance systems and call upon WHO to coordinate a global surveillance network for the monitoring and management of drug resistance;

(i) Undertake, with support from WHO, development of insecticide resistance surveillance systems and call upon WHO to coordinate a global network for the monitoring and management of insecticide resistance.

13. On the basis of the findings of the present report and those of World Health Assembly resolution 58/2, it is recommended that the General Assembly call upon:

(a) International partners to use monitoring and evaluation systems to be developed by WHO as minimum core indicators rather than adopting parallel systems and call upon WHO, together with countries and other partners, to develop simple, less costly survey methodologies to effectively assess impact and coverage of anti-malarial interventions in a timely manner;

(b) Bilateral and multilateral funding partners to become fully knowledgeable about WHO technical policies and strategies, including for indoor residual spraying, insecticide-treated nets and case management, to ensure that funding supports only projects that are in accord with those, and to consider submitting technical components of projects under consideration to be reviewed by WHO prior to approval to ensure adherence to the latest WHO technical recommendations;

(c) All donor agencies and food-importing countries to issue a clear statement outlining their position on the use of DDT for indoor residual spraying, when it is implemented where indicated and in accordance with WHO guidelines, and to provide all possible support to malaria-endemic countries to manage the intervention effectively and prevent the contamination of agricultural products with DDT and other insecticides used for indoor residual spraying;

(d) Producers of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets to accelerate technology transfer to developing countries and call upon the World Bank and regional development funds to consider supporting malaria-endemic countries to establish factories to scale-up production of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets;

(e) The international community to fight the counterfeit drug trade in developing countries and to reach a consensus on appropriate levels and sources of subsidies for key commodities, namely long-lasting insecticide-treated nets and ACTs, to enable expanded access to good quality drugs and preventive measures for populations at risk of malaria;

(f) WHO to review the global malaria research agenda from a malaria control perspective, involving the scientific community (which would include the major stakeholders, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the National Institute of Health and the European Union) and the national malaria programmes. The review would focus on new medicines to prevent and treat malaria, diagnostic tests, new insecticides and formulations, vaccines, operational and implementation research and new methodologies and tools for impact assessment and cost-effectiveness evaluation of anti-malarial interventions alone and in combination, in different settings, towards fine-tuning national malaria control strategies;

(g) The international community, inter alia, to financially enhance the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to enable it to continue supporting countries and to provide adequate complementary resources for technical assistance, in particular for WHO and UNICEF, to ensure that funds can be absorbed and used effectively in countries.

United Nations A/61/219

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 August 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Item 105 of the provisional agenda*
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Letter dated 2 August 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the documents adopted by the Council on Collective Security of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (Minsk, 22-23 June 2006):

(a) Declaration of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the Further Enhancement and Improvement of the Effectiveness of the Organization's Activities (see annex I);

(b) Statement of the Collective Security Treaty Organization at the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (see annex II).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 105 at its sixty-first session.

(*Signed*) Sergei **Rachkov**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/61/150

06-45574 (E) 090806 100806

Annex I to the letter dated 2 August 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Declaration of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the Further Enhancement and Improvement of the Effectiveness of the Organization's Activities

Minsk, 23 June 2006

We, the Heads of State of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO),

Confirming our resolve to implement consistently the provisions of the Treaty on Collective Security of 15 May 1992, the Charter of the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the main documents and decisions adopted in elaboration thereof, which identified key areas for the development of a collective security system of the CSTO member States,

Taking into account the intention to cooperate closely in order to strengthen the international legal order and regimes for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction,

Noting the progress made since the founding of CSTO in the area of cooperation among member States in foreign and defence policy and in counteracting today's challenges and threats,

Acknowledging the need to take additional measures to adapt CSTO to changing political realities and to the demands currently made of a multifunctional international security structure,

Declare that:

The CSTO member States are intensifying efforts for the comprehensive development and enhancement of integration mechanisms within the framework of the Organization to combat growing challenges and threats at the regional and global levels, and confirm the need to cooperate closely in order to ensure the effective protection of their national and collective interests.

We believe that it is important to reaffirm the principles adopted previously, and to develop new approaches to the all-round strengthening of the collective security system, as follows:

- Commonality of goals and objectives in developing a collective security system in the CSTO area of responsibility;
- Coherence of actions, which must be without prejudice to collective security interests;
- Priority of the CSTO member States' alliance obligations, and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and authority of each member State;
- Mutual respect, and consideration for member States' national interests and positions in the area of foreign policy and security;

- Coordination of foreign policy, and protection and safeguarding of member States' collective and national interests in the international arena.

For the near term, we set the goal of developing, within the framework of CSTO, an effective mechanism to counteract today's challenges and threats, tapping the potential of member States' defence and special agencies and the possibilities for cooperation with other international organizations. In this context, we pay close attention to the training of personnel for the defence, law enforcement and special agencies of the CSTO member States.

We advocate stepping up efforts to coordinate anti-terrorist and anti-narcotic activity, combat illegal migration and develop emergency response cooperation mechanisms for natural and man-made disasters.

Still deeper and more effective cooperation in the political sphere will help to strengthen the potential for cooperation to counteract today's challenges and threats. We consider the implementation of mechanisms to coordinate foreign policy activity in order to protect the CSTO member States' collective and national interests to be a critical task.

Expanding the systematic exchange of information on steps being taken in the area of foreign policy and security and on military and political contacts with other international organizations and third countries should become a key factor in developing cooperation among the CSTO member States.

We attach particular importance to the strengthening of ties with the United Nations and other international organizations dealing with security issues. We are open to the establishment of regional and global cooperative relationships to combat terrorism, extremism and the illegal distribution of narcotic drugs.

We believe that the establishment, within the framework of CSTO, of a unified collective security system requires the strengthening and development of the military component of CSTO, in terms of its capacity both to combat traditional threats and to adapt to the changing conditions of the fight against terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking and other contemporary challenges and threats.

We believe it would be advisable to embark on the development of strategic planning mechanisms for the use of the collective security system's forces and resources and for the provision of emergency military and technical assistance to CSTO member States that face security threats or are the object of acts of aggression.

In order to ensure the successful implementation of the measures described in this Declaration to further enhance and improve the effectiveness of CSTO, the Heads of State of the CSTO member States hereby instruct the Secretary-General and Permanent Council of CSTO to prepare a proposal on the development of a legal and regulatory framework for CSTO for submission to the Council on Collective Security.

For the Republic of Armenia
(*Signed*) Robert **Kocharian**

For the Republic of Belarus
(*Signed*) Alyaksandr **Lukashenka**

For the Republic of Kazakhstan
(*Signed*) Nursultan **Nazarbayev**

For the Kyrgyz Republic
(*Signed*) Kurmanbek **Bakiev**

For the Russian Federation
(*Signed*) Vladimir **Putin**

For the Republic of Tajikistan
(*Signed*) Emomali **Rakhmonov**

Annex II to the letter dated 2 August 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement of the Collective Security Treaty Organization at the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 26 June-7 July 2006

Minsk, 23 June 2006

The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO),

Emphasizing the importance of speedy and full implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,

Noting with satisfaction the regional, subregional and national efforts made to support the implementation of the Programme of Action, and appreciating the progress achieved over the last five years,

Expressing its adherence to the lofty goals of the Programme of Action and its readiness to do everything possible to promote their achievement,

Wishes to inform Conference participants that the States members of CSTO have taken the following measures to implement the Programme of Action:

They have made coordinated decisions on small arms and light weapons within the framework of CSTO;

They have enhanced national export control legislation;

They have promoted the development, adoption and implementation of regional measures within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and are involved in implementing OSCE projects aimed at destroying surplus small arms and light weapons and improving stockpile security;

They are voluntarily taking steps to eliminate surplus stockpiles of man-portable air-defence systems (MANPADS) and have agreed on additional measures to monitor such weapons in order to prevent them from falling into the hands of non-State actors, including international terrorists;

They are open to cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects with all countries, groups of States and organizations interested in such cooperation, and in this connection wish to express support for the efforts of all United Nations Member States, groups of States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to implement the Programme of Action.

They welcome the adoption of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons and support its full implementation at the global, regional and national levels.

CSTO considers that one of the primary goals of the Conference should be to agree on additional measures for the practical implementation, in the period after 2006, of the Programme of Action, whose potential is still far from being fully tapped. The CSTO member States believe that these additional measures could be developed by the Conference without amending the text of the instrument itself.

As additional measures which could contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action, the CSTO:

Supports strengthening oversight of brokering in small arms and light weapons and believes that the group of governmental experts should begin its work as soon as possible after the conclusion of the Review Conference;

Supports the initiation of focused discussions within the framework of the Programme of Action, on the question of strengthening oversight of small arms and light weapons transfers to non-governmental structures and organizations;

Supports the development and adoption, within the framework of the Programme of Action, of a set of measures to counteract the unregulated shipment of small arms and light weapons, including MANPADS, as well as their manufacture without a licence or permit from the country of the original producer and owner of the production technology.

CSTO opposes artificial restrictions that hinder licit trade and proposes, without prejudice to national positions, that the Conference should focus on such steps as will promote the eradication of the illicit trade in and circulation of small arms and light weapons. The CSTO member States stand ready to participate in a discussion of initiatives related to legal shipments of small arms and light weapons in the context of suppressing illicit trafficking in armaments.

For the Republic of Armenia
(*Signed*) Robert **Kocharian**

For the Kyrgyz Republic
(*Signed*) Kurmanbek **Bakiev**

For the Republic of Belarus
(*Signed*) Alyaksandr **Lukashenka**

For the Russian Federation
(*Signed*) Vladimir **Putin**

For the Republic of Kazakhstan
(*Signed*) Nursultan **Nazarbayev**

For the Republic of Tajikistan
(*Signed*) Emomali **Rakhmonov**

United Nations A/61/220

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 August 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Item 66 of the provisional agenda*
Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 2 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter dated 28 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which was circulated as a document of the General Assembly (A/61/97), I would like to express our regret that a request has been made once again to disseminate the letter based on unilateral and ungrounded allegations against Japan with unsubstantiated and exaggerated falsehood.

The letter alleges that "the Japanese authorities are seeking to isolate the Democratic People's Republic of Korea through the internationalization of the already resolved abduction issue". However, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has not provided us with a persuasive explanation of the fate of those victims, even though the Democratic People's Republic of Korea itself acknowledged the abduction. Japan once again emphasizes that the issue of the abduction of Japanese nationals remains unresolved and that the claim by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea cannot be accepted.

According to information from a number of sources, the abductees are not limited to Japanese nationals but include nationals of various countries. The acts of abduction constitute serious violations of human rights and are a grave concern to the international community. I would like to point out that in the Chair summary of the G-8 Summit held recently in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, the G-8 leaders requested "early resolution of the abduction issue".

Furthermore, as Japan has explained on various occasions, the claims of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with regard to the issues of the past are unsubstantiated. Our basic position on these issues is clearly reflected in the attached Pyongyang Declaration (see annex).

Japan strongly requests the Democratic People's Republic of Korea again not to threaten the peace and security of the Japanese people and to take sincere steps to achieve a comprehensive resolution of the abduction, missile and nuclear issues based on the Pyongyang Declaration and Security Council resolution 1695 (2006).

* A/61/150.

06-45568 (E) 080806

In addition, the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should act in good faith and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/173 on the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, accept a visit by the Special Rapporteur.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 68 (b) of the provisional agenda of the sixty-first session of the Assembly.

(*Signed*) Kenzo **Oshima**
Permanent Representative
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 2 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Chairman Kim Jong-Il of the DPRK National Defense Commission met and had talks in Pyongyang on September 17, 2002.

Both leaders confirmed the shared recognition that establishing a fruitful political, economic and cultural relationship between Japan and the DPRK through the settlement of unfortunate past between them and the outstanding issues of concern would be consistent with the fundamental interests of both sides, and would greatly contribute to the peace and stability of the region.

1. Both sides determined that, pursuant to the spirit and basic principles laid out in this Declaration, they would make every possible effort for an early normalization of the relations, and decided that they would resume the Japan-DPRK normalization talks in October 2002.

Both sides expressed their strong determination that they would sincerely tackle outstanding problems between Japan and the DPRK based upon their mutual trust in the course of achieving the normalization.

2. The Japanese side regards, in a spirit of humility, the facts of history that Japan caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of Korea through its colonial rule in the past, and expressed deep remorse and heartfelt apology.

Both sides shared the recognition that, providing economic co-operation after the normalization by the Japanese side to the DPRK side, including grant aids, long-term loans with low interest rates and such assistances as humanitarian assistance through international organizations, over a period of time deemed appropriate by both sides, and providing other loans and credits by such financial institutions as the Japan Bank for International Co-operation with a view to supporting private economic activities, would be consistent with the spirit of this Declaration, and decided that they would sincerely discuss the specific scales and contents of the economic co-operation in the normalization talks.

Both sides, pursuant to the basic principle that when the bilateral relationship is normalized both Japan and the DPRK would mutually waive all their property and claims and those of their nationals that had arisen from causes which occurred before August 15, 1945, decided that they would discuss this issue of property and claims concretely in the normalization talks.

Both sides decided that they would sincerely discuss the issue of the status of Korean residents in Japan and the issue of cultural property.

3. Both sides confirmed that they would comply with international law and would not commit conducts threatening the security of the other side. With respect to the outstanding issues of concern related to the lives and security of Japanese nationals, the DPRK side confirmed that it would take appropriate measures so that these regrettable incidents, that took place under the abnormal bilateral relationship, would never happen in the future.

4. Both sides confirmed that they would co-operate with each other in order to maintain and strengthen the peace and stability of North East Asia.

Both sides confirmed the importance of establishing co-operative relationships based upon mutual trust among countries concerned in this region, and shared the recognition that it is important to have a framework in place in order for these regional countries to promote confidence-building, as the relationships among these countries are normalized.

Both sides confirmed that, for an overall resolution of the nuclear issues on the Korean Peninsula, they would comply with all related international agreements. Both sides also confirmed the necessity of resolving security problems including nuclear and missile issues by promoting dialogues among countries concerned.

The DPRK side expressed its intention that, pursuant to the spirit of this Declaration, it would further maintain the moratorium on missile launching in and after 2003.

Both sides decided that they would discuss issues relating to security.

Prime Minister of Japan
Junichiro Koizumi

Chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission
Kim Jong-Il

September 17, 2002
Pyongyang